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ASALA blast kills one in Paris

PARIS (R) — A woman was killed and four people were injured in an explosion Monday at a Paris travel company specialising in flights to Turkey, police said. The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) claimed responsibility in a telephone call to news agencies. Police said the blast was caused by escaping gas but could have been set off by an explosive device. They said the dead woman was the telephone operator at the Marmara Travel Company. Turkish officials and diplomats in France have often been the target of Armenian guerrillas who accuse Turkey of the alleged genocide — denied by Turkey — of Armenians during World War II.

Jordan Times



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Fahd receives Moroccan message

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Monday received a verbal message from King Hassan of Morocco believed to be dealing with border talks between the Moroccan monarch and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. The Saudi Press Agency said the message was conveyed by Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohammed Boucetta, who arrived unexpectedly in Riyadh earlier Monday. The border meeting took place on Saturday. King Fahd has been trying to arrange a reconciliation between the two North African neighbours, which severed diplomatic relations over the Western Sahara issue seven years ago.

Volume 8 Number 2201

AMMAN, TUESDAY MARCH 1, 1983 — JUMADA AL AWWAL 17, 1403

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Benjedid to visit UAE

BAHRAIN (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid will visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday for talks with President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan on Arab affairs, the official Emirates News Agency reported Monday. It said Mr. Benjedid would stop in the UAE capital en route to New Delhi for the non-aligned summit opening on March 7. The Algerian president visited the UAE last April.

Iran pardons 8,000 prisoners

LONDON (R) — Iran's clerical leaders have pardoned 8,300 prisoners following an amnesty decree by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Tehran Radio said Monday. The radio, monitored in London, said the prisoners were freed Sunday under the decree marking the fourth anniversary of the Islamic revolution which brought the ayatollah to power. There was no indication whether the amnesty had included opponents of the government. But Tehran newspapers recently reported that the decree would not apply to political prisoners. Iranian opposition leaders have alleged that the government ordered the execution of some 2,000 leftist dissidents in the past two weeks and more executions are planned this week. Last week Amnesty International sent a cable to Ayatollah Khomeini, appealing for an urgent end to all executions.

Bulgarian, Agca may face charges of plot against Lech Walesa

ROME (R) — A Bulgarian airline official and the Turkish gunman who shot the Pope two years ago were given official warnings Monday that they could be charged with a plot to kill Polish labour leader Lech Walesa, the Justice Ministry said. Sergei Antonov has been held in an Italian jail since last November on suspicion of complicity in the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul in May 1981. The ministry said that Mr. Antonov and Turk Mehmet Ali Agca, who is serving a life sentence for shooting the Pope, were given formal warnings by the Rome public prosecutor that he was investigating their suspected role in a plot to kill Mr. Walesa when he visited Rome in January 1981.

Reuter veteran dies

DUBLIN (R) — Martin Herlihy, a decorated World War II dispatch rider who became a top Reuter correspondent, died Monday after a short illness, his family said. He was 87. Herlihy worked 23 years for Reuters in Britain, France and the Middle East before moving to South Africa in 1947. He joined Reuters in 1925 as a political reporter after some years reporting parliament for provincial papers and British news agency.

Racehorse kidnap still unsolved

DUBLIN (R) — More than 100 jockeys have been questioned by Irish police in the search for the champion racehorse Shergar, kidnapped 20 days ago. A police spokesman said this was a normal part of inquiries and that no major breakthrough had been made in the search for the horse from the Ballymany stud farm in County Kildare. The 34-member syndicate that owns Shergar, winner of the 1981 English and Irish derbies, are claiming malicious damages of 20 million Irish pounds (\$27 million) from the local Irish authorities.

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Qawasmeh: Israel backs terrorist acts against Arabs in West Bank

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israeli authorities are covering up and encouraging attacks of Jewish settlers against the inhabitants of the occupied West Bank town of Hebron, the exiled mayor of the town, Fahd Al Qawasmeh said here Monday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Qawasmeh said that "the aggression and terrorism practised by the settlers of Kiryat Arba are part of an Israeli plan which aims at the subjugation of Palestinians to the so-called Israeli civil administration as a step towards total annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Reports from the Israeli-occupied territories indicate an escalation of violence against Arabs.

Tension in Hebron, following a bomb blast outside a mosque last Friday, was aggravated by an attack by Jewish settlers in which a four-year old Arab girl was wounded by a bullet Saturday.

Israeli newspapers said it happened as the settlers wearing camouflaged masks fired machineguns at Arab homes after a party.

Other bullet holes in Arab homes were shown to police who promised a thorough investigation.

To inquire into the wounding of the Arab girl an investigating committee has been reportedly set up by the Israeli police.

Referring to the investigation committee Mr. Qawasmeh said that such a committee is "weak and will not be able to find the perpetrators of the crime nor will it succeed in putting an end to the attacks."

"The committee has been set up by police who dare not even enter Kiryat Arba or interrogate any member of Gush Enunim, who roam about fully armed," Mr. Qawasmeh said.

Furthermore, the committee has been formed to absorb the anger of the residents of Hebron and not to actually investigate the incidents," he added.

Mr. Qawasmeh said that the inhabitants of Hebron are subjected to daily harassments by Israeli settlers.

He cited as examples the discovery of a bomb planted in a school in Hebron, an explosion in the market which injured two Arabs, the destruction by the settlers of newly-built houses and structures in the town, and repeated shootings at Arabs by the settlers.

Mr. Qawasmeh accused the Israeli government of unwillingness

to uncover "the criminals" and to put an end to the violence.

"If the Israeli government was really sincere in its investigation it would have had formed a governmental committee empowered to carry out a real investigation. The Israeli government can uncover and arrest the criminals in 24 hours if it really wanted," he said.

Echoing the same views, the acting mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Natshe, was reported by Reuters Monday to have said that "they (the Israelis) will catch those who planted the bomb outside the mosque when they catch those who blew up the mayors," Mr. Natshe was obviously referring to the 1980 car ambushes as a result of which the mayors of the occupied towns of Nablus and Ramallah were murdered.

Until now the Israelis have not arrested anybody on these charges and the Israeli security police claim that they are still investigating.

Mr. Natshe also appealed to Israeli occupation authorities to stop attacks on Arab residents.

In a telegram to the Israeli Defence Ministry, which administers occupied territories, Mayor Natshe demanded an end to "Jewish aggression against Hebron residents."

Further north Monday in the main West Bank town of Nablus soldiers had to fire teargas to disperse schoolchildren stoning Israeli vehicles and troops.

Israeli forces later placed a curfew on the central market area of Nablus and closed off a nearby Palestinian refugee camp.

The exiled mayor of Hebron, also accused the Israeli government of backing the violence and terrorism practised by the Israeli settlers.

"The Israeli government thinks that terrorising the residents of Hebron will force our people to collaborate with the Village League lackeys, accept the build-up of Israeli settlements and suppress the resistance of our people," Mr. Qawasmeh said.

He expressed confidence that "these terrorist techniques" will not succeed in driving the residents of Hebron out of their homeland.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem (left), and Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi (to Mr. Qasem's left), Monday confer with the visiting vice-president of India, Mr. M. Hidayatullah (Petra photo)

Regent confers with Hidayatullah

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and the visiting vice-president of India, M. Hidayatullah, in a meeting held at the Royal Court Monday, discussed the situation in the Middle East, and matters of joint interest to be raised at the forthcoming non-aligned summit to be held in New Delhi.

Prince Hassan explained to the Indian guest the significance of the Non-Aligned Movement in contributing to resolving international problems and towards

world peace and cooperation among the developing countries, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The two leaders also discussed relations between Jordan and India and ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Attending the meeting from the Jordanian side were Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem. Members of the delegation accompanying the Indian vice-president and Indian Ambassador

to Jordan Pyare Lal Santoshi represented the Indian side.

Mr. Hidayatullah later visited the graveyards of the late King Abdullah bin Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the late King Talal bin Abdullah, where he read prayers and placed wreaths.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibo Zaid accompanied the Indian vice-president on the visits.

Mr. Hidayatullah, accompanied by his wife, also visited the Martyrs Monument.

Israel says it is too early to talk about pullout accord

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. special envoy Philip Habib Monday met Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir but Israeli officials played down reports that agreement was near on withdrawing foreign troops from Lebanon.

Mr. Habib, who is trying to speed up withdrawal negotiations, arrived from Beirut Monday amid reports that he had bridged some outstanding differences between Israel and Lebanon.

After Monday's two-hour meeting the officials said it was too early to talk of an imminent accord although Mr. Habib had suc-

ceeded in drafting agreements on some less contentious issues.

Negotiations on the withdrawal of foreign forces—Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian—from Lebanon began in early January.

The officials said there was still a serious dispute over Israeli "security" arrangements in the South Lebanon border zone and normalisation of relations.

Israel wants the right to man three early warning posts in the zone. Lebanon has rejected this as an infringement of its sovereignty.

Israel also wants bilateral trade and open borders from the day a

withdrawal agreement is signed.

Israel Radio said one compromise Israel was considering was joint Israeli patrols with members of the South Lebanese militia of Major Saad Haddad, which has been armed and trained by the Israeli army.

The officials said Mr. Habib had still not received firm assurances that Syria would pull out its troops from east and north Lebanon.

Mr. Habib, sent back to the Middle East by President Reagan, planned to stay in Israel for several days and had no immediate plans to visit Damascus, Israeli officials said.

Newsweek: Reagan may replace Habib

NEW YORK (R) — President Reagan is studying the possibility of replacing Middle East peace negotiator Philip Habib with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger or former President Jimmy Carter, Newsweek magazine said Sunday.

He might also call a summit meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and—if he agreed to attend—Jordan's King Hussein, Newsweek added.

The magazine, which gave no source for its report, said Mr. Reagan was considering the moves as a dramatic last resort to break the current deadlock in the Middle East peace process.

"If all else fails, the Reagan administration is studying some dramatic manoeuvres.

"One possibility is to name a figure such as Henry Kissinger or perhaps even Jimmy Carter as a special Middle East negotiator in place of Habib—who is able and liked by the president but who lacks political clout," Newsweek said.

"Another possibility is a summit meeting between Reagan, Begin, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and—if he agreed to attend—Jordan's King Hussein," the magazine added.

Carter to visit Cairo

Mr. Carter will arrive in Cairo Tuesday for a week-long visit at the invitation of the Egyptian government, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

Mr. Carter, who was last in Egypt for the funeral of President Anwar Sadat in October, 1981, will have talks with Mr. Mubarak, Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Prime Minister Fuad Mubieddin, the spokesman added.

Israel Television has said Mr. Carter would also pay a visit lasting about a week as guest of Prime Minister Begin.

Mr. Carter was the architect of the 1978 Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel which led to their treaty the following year.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Cairo said the timing of the visit had nothing to do with the Newswk report and that Mr. Carter would not be in Cairo on any commission from the U.S. administration.

'Soviet missiles are not so accurate'

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. monitoring of Soviet missile tests has shown that Moscow's nuclear arsenal is not nearly accurate or reliable enough to destroy American missile silos in a first strike, U.S. intelligence sources said Monday.

Contradicting the Reagan administration's case for building costly MX missiles, the sources told Reuters the monitoring showed that, in the foreseeable future, Soviet missiles would not be able to wipe out the existing U.S. Minuteman force.

A source who has access to and has evaluated the top-secret test data said: "Their accuracy isn't even within the ballpark (normally capable) of being able to launch a first strike against our Minuteman missile silos, not even with their large, powerful warheads."

One of the top private weapons experts, Kosta Tsipis of the Mas-

sachusetts Institute of Technology, told Reuters he is about to issue a study which also concludes that the Pentagon has greatly exaggerated Soviet missile accuracy.

President Reagan and the Pentagon have warned repeatedly of a "window of vulnerability" that would allow the Kremlin to launch a first strike with highly accurate Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), destroying U.S. ICBMs in their silos.

Mr. Reagan says the controversial \$40-billion MX is needed to match Soviet ICBM accuracy, but for two years he has been unable to find a way of deploying the missiles to protect them from a first strike which is acceptable to Congress and to the military.

A source familiar with the Soviet test data told Reuters it casts doubt on the first strike threat and the need for the MX.

He said the data on all tests since 1978 of SS-18 and SS-19 missiles, the most advanced Soviet ICBMs, had been gathered by U.S. satellites and ground stations. They tracked the missiles, some of which were fired from a site in the Soviet Union north of Iran to Kamchatka, Siberia.

Although the precise Soviet targets were not known, he said, intelligence monitoring of their missile telemetry (radio guidance) systems showed the missiles "wobbled" excessively and were too inaccurate to hit close enough to U.S. silos to destroy the Minuteman missiles.

He said Soviet missile accuracy was not likely to improve dramatically in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Tsipis said his study, based on public data, concluded that the Pentagon has stated Soviet missile accuracy to be six times better than it actually is.

SAM-5s in Syria 'destabilise' Mideast, U.S. tells Moscow

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Monday it had told the Soviet Union it was destabilising the Middle East by sitting new anti-aircraft missiles in Syria.

The siting of the missiles "is a sobering and destabilising event in the Middle East and we have so stated to the Soviet Union," Secretary of State George Shultz told the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee.

He said the missiles were manned by Soviet personnel and "there is no indication that we see that they aspire to train Syrians to man these weapons."

Mr. Shultz said the presence of the SAM-5 missiles in Syria demonstrated "the importance of pushing and pushing hard" U.S. initiatives both for withdrawal of Syrian, Israeli and Palestinian forces from Lebanon and for an overall Middle East peace settlement.

"The potential destabilising impact of the new Soviet missiles only emphasises the importance of advancing the peace objective which we have had all along," he said.

Earlier Monday, U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Syria had become "just another outpost of the Soviet Union" because there were thousands of Soviet advisers operating missile batteries there.

"Syria has become an outpost of the Soviet empire," Mr. Weinberger said in an interview on NBC Television.

Asked to comment on recent U.S. and Israeli reports that Moscow has installed four batteries of SAM-5 missiles in Syria, the first

time the anti-aircraft weapons have been based outside Europe, Mr. Weinberger said: "These are true facts. These are very effective anti-aircraft weapons."

"Now there are thousands of Soviet advisers in Syria," he said. "It (Syria) amounts to just another outpost of the Soviet Union."

Israeli military sources say there are 4,500 Soviet military advisers stationed in Syria.

Mr. Weinberger said the missiles, with an operational range of 300 kilometres which puts them within reach of northern Israel and U.S. war planes operating in the Mediterranean, were "much closer than they should be...this makes the Middle East situation more complex."

Mr. Weinberger also dismissed as "total nonsense" an Israeli Radio report that Moshe Arens, Israel's new defence minister, had accused him of siding with the Arabs in conflicts with Israel.

"I would be surprised if he said that," Mr. Weinberger commented, noting that he had had a cordial meeting with Mr. Arens last week before he left Washington where he was Israel's ambassador for the past year.

According to the radio Mr. Arens told his first cabinet meeting that Mr. Weinberger's Arab bias stemmed from his previous business connections.

Mr. Weinberger is a former top executive of the San Francisco-based Bechtel corporation, a major engineering firm with extensive contracts in Arab countries.

Timing for prisoner swap expected soon, PLO says

DAMASCUS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) expects to know within the next two days when an exchange of prisoners with Israel can take place, a senior PLO official said Monday.

Deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir told reporters in Damascus the PLO sought the release of some 6,500 Palestinians and Lebanese, including 1,000 held in Israeli jails, in exchange for eight Israelis captured in Lebanon in September.

Contacts on the prisoner exchange are being conducted through Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross. So far only the PLO

has revealed any details. Israel last week denied Mr. Wazir's statement in an Austrian interview that it had agreed to release 800 Palestinians but the PLO was insisting on the release of 1,000.

Apart from those in Israeli jails, the PLO demands the freeing of more than 5,400 Palestinians and Lebanese detained by Israel at a camp in Ansar, southern Lebanon.

Mr. Wazir, popularly known as Abu Jihad, said the PLO was waiting for Israel to finish checking a list of 1,000 Palestinian prisoners prepared by the PLO. But he did not indicate if Israel had agreed to the PLO's conditions.

Arafat envoy says Nairobi will not restore Israeli ties

NAIROBI (R) — A special envoy of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Monday he had received assurances from Kenyan officials that they would not re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel until a satisfactory solution was found to the Middle East conflict.

Aff Safieh, who is touring African capitals to rally support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in view of the forthcoming non-aligned conference in New Delhi, was speaking to newsmen after meeting Kenyan foreign ministry protocol chief Dennis Afande and Middle East department head Ali Abbas.

"During our meeting, the Kenyan officials expressed the admiration of President Daniel arap Moi and of the Kenyan people for the statesmanship of Mr. Arafat and they gave assurances that Kenya would not re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel in absence of a satisfactory settlement of the Middle East crisis in conformity with international legality," Mr. Safieh said.

Kenya broke diplomatic relations with Israel following Organisation of African Unity (OAU) resolutions at the time of the 1975 Middle East war.

Avoid controversies, Gandhi cautions non-aligned officials

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Monday told India's delegation to the non-aligned conference starting in Delhi Tuesday its task was to work for consensus, skirting disruptive controversies.

Delegations were arriving Monday for the Third World's biggest political forum which opens at official level Tuesday. Foreign Ministers of the 97-member movement take over on Thursday, and a five-day summit begins on March 7.

Mrs. Gandhi, who will chair the summit, said discussions should get the correct orientation from the start, concentrating on ho-

ader issues affecting the movement like disarmament and ways of increasing economic cooperation among developing states.

India is anxious that the conference should not be marred by potentially divisive topics such as who should represent Kampuchea and the question of a Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

FEATURES

Successful surgery: A contrast to Italy's chaos

By Stuart Harris
Reuters

ROME — Doctors predicted a short life for Alessandro Bianchi when he was born last January with a heart tumour, but a speedy operation saved him and turned a team of surgeons into national heroes.

Within hours of his birth doctors performed what they said was the world's first successful heart surgery on a newborn baby. The growth, as big as a walnut, took up most of Alessandro's left ventricle. Doctors at the state-run Fatebenefratelli Hospital where he was born despaired of preventing it moving to block his blood supply.

Alessandro was rushed to the Vatican's Bambino Gesù (baby Jesus) Children's Hospital, where a team of heart surgeons operated to remove the growth.

"Fatebenefratelli called at three, the baby arrived at four and we had him on the operating table at five," recalls Dr. Carlo Marcelletti, 38, head of the Cardiosurgery Department.

The speed and success of the operation turned Dr. Marcelletti's team into celebrities. Their success was in contrast to the normal chaos in Italy's understaffed hospitals, now aggravated by doctors protesting at poor pay and conditions.

Dr. Marcelletti hand-picked the team of three cardiologists, six anaesthetists and five surgeons, including himself, from the "brain drain" of Italian medical talent he met while working in foreign hospitals.

He worked in Britain, at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and at the University Hospital in Amsterdam.

"I assumed I was going to spend my working life outside Italy, so I was over the moon when Bambino Gesù asked me to come and set up a child heart surgery department," he told Reuters in the hospital on Janiculum Hill, overlooking central Rome.

His team has since carried out 180 operations with an 85 per cent survival rate, over half of them on babies under one year old and almost half of them emergencies.

Dr. Marcelletti attributes some of his team's success to the hospital's flexible administration: "New ideas in state-run hospitals often get slowed down in the bureaucracy, but here we can quickly put them into practice."

Doctors at Bambino Gesù have the same type of contract as colleagues working for the Italian state, but their salaries are not taxed since they work "abroad"

on Vatican territory.

Founded by an English noblewoman in the 19th century, the hospital was ceded to the Holy See in the Lateran Pacts drawn up between the Vatican and Mussolini's fascist administration in 1929.

But while the non-profit making hospital escapes the state bureaucracy, its income derives entirely from national health fees per patient.

"We have no guaranteed annual budget and only four per cent of our patients' fee goes on new investments, compared to eight per cent in Britain, for example," medical superintendent Elio Guzzanti said.

But he added: "The hospital is quite small, with 645 beds, and you get a particularly dedicated type of person working with children, which helps to improve efficiency and commitment."

Toalet Szalon a 'civilised' lavatory

By Jonathan Lynn
Reuters

BUDAPEST — Janos Kiss is no ordinary lavatory attendant. As one of Communist Hungary's new entrepreneurs, he runs his toilets as a small business on concession from the Budapest Sewerage Company.

He is one of thousands of Hungarians taking advantage of a law introduced last year under the country's 15-year-old economic reform.

This enabled big public companies in the service sector to auction off concessions on their smaller units to people prepared to take the risk of running them, in the hope of bigger rewards. The law has led to the transfer of restaurants, shops — and public lavatories — to private control.

"Mr. Kiss' 'Toalet Szalon' is on a prime site in Bathany Square, on the banks of the Danube opposite the parliament. A constant flow of commuters passes up and down his stairs, as the square is the terminus of the suburban railway and several bus routes, and also has an underground railway station.

Mr. Kiss' assistant, a cheerful gypsy in his early twenties named Jozsef, points out the facilities put in by Mr. Kiss which distinguish the salon from more run-of-the-mill conveniences.

Mirrors, potted plants and pictures (including pin-up posters in the men's section), lend a welcoming air to the hygienic premises, while music from an impressive-looking hi-fi system soothes the clients.

Use of the basic facilities costs two forints (five cents), and a shower is 10 forints (25 cents). Men

can hire an electric shaver and women can use an electric slimming belt.

Mr. Kiss told Reuters he had previously worked as a lavatory attendant for the sewerage company before going private.

When the three-year concession came up for auction last July, he won with a bid of 24,500 forints (\$610) a month. "It brings in about 40,000 forints (\$1,000) a month — as much as my old place took in a year — but I don't make a big profit," he said through an interpreter.

Mr. Kiss, a quiet man of 34, said refurbishing the lavatory after winning the contract had cost about 100,000 forints (\$2,500), mostly borrowed.

"But when the sewerage company saw what I had done they were gentlemanly enough to give me most of the money," he added.

The salon is open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Mr. Kiss comes in after taking his two children to school and stays until closing, with a break to take the children home.

He said he would like to broaden the facilities at Bathany Square with a nappy-changing room and a shop selling toiletries.

He is also considering all-night opening in the summer to accommodate tourists who arrive at the stations or stay at the Roman baths campsite just up the suburban railway. People leaving late-night discos would also welcome a shower, he added.

"What I've done is make these toilets close to what people try to create for themselves at home," he said, explaining the success of his salon.

Hungarian officials say measures such as the concession law involve private enterprise rather than private ownership.

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HOME NEWS

Regent meets AFJ at Royal Court

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Royal Court Monday the members of the Arab Federation of Jurists (AFJ) currently meeting in Amman.

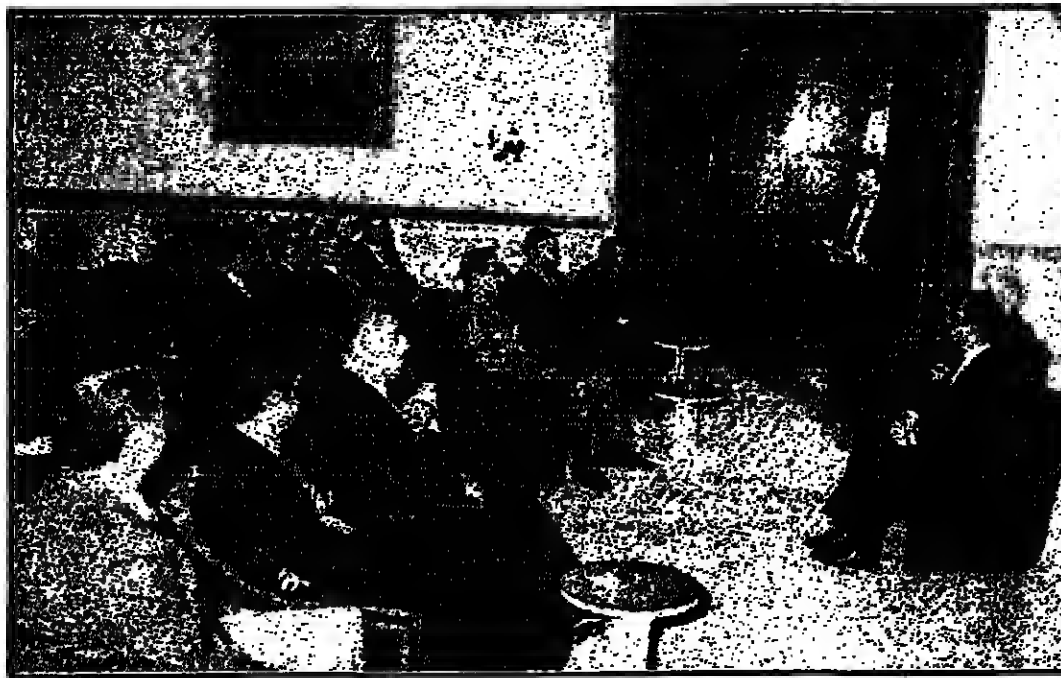
Addressing the jurists, Prince Hassan asserted the need to utilise the law in serving and defending Arab issues and causes. Prince Hassan said we should devote special attention to the legal status of the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories and to expose the illegitimacy of this occupation. Crown Prince Hassan called on the jurists to devote more time to an objective analysis of the humanities, which focus on urgent human issues.

Speaking about the Arab Thought Forum, Prince Hassan said

the forum had a vital role to play in undertaking studies to help the decision-makers of the Arab World. He also called for the bridging of the gap between decision makers, intellectuals and researchers in the Arab World.

President of the Jordanian Jurists Association (JJA) Adib Halaseh earlier made a speech explaining the reason for convening the meeting in Jordan. AFJ Secretary-General Shabib Al Malki also made a speech explaining the goals and activities of the AFJ in serving Arab causes.

The 8th session of the meeting of the permanent bureau of the AFJ began in Amman last Saturday with representatives from 12 Arab countries attending.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received members of the Arab Federation of Jurists at the Royal Court (Petra photo)

Supply Ministry pegs price of wheat flour

AMMAN (Petra) — Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub issued a decree Monday fixing the consumer price of wheat flour (zero type) at 70 fils per kilogramme.

According to the decree, those overcharging will be penalised according to the law.

Commenting on the decree, Supply Ministry officials, who are responsible for importing the flour, said the aim of the decree is to enable the consumers to buy small quantities of flour at reasonable prices rather than having

to buy in bulk from the ministry's warehouses or flour mills. The ministry's warehouses will still be able to sell larger quantities of flour, they said.

Mr. Ayyoub also issued another decree according to which school stationary will be categorised as supply materials for the purpose of import and export licences. This means that the prices will rise as import duties will be charged. The two decrees will come into force on March 1, 1983.

Travel agents' course ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fourteen representatives of Jordanian travel agencies Sunday concluded a one-week advanced training course in management techniques special to the airline industry and on the international application of tariffs.

The course was conducted at the Intercontinental Hotel by Mr. J. Buhrmester of the Luftwansa training centre in Frankfurt.

Solar heater project studied

AMMAN (Petra) — The solar energy section at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is currently conducting a field study with a view to manufacturing solar heaters in Morocco. This project is being jointly explored with a Moroccan firm and the hope is to establish a plant with a productive capacity of 15,000 solar heaters per year.

Meeting regulates clothing sales

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Ministry Under-Secretary Muhammad Saleh Al Hnurni met Monday representatives of the federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and ready-cloth salesmen.

The meeting decided that sales of ready-made clothes should not be staged more than twice a year, and that the duration of each sale should be no longer than one month, and that the reduction of prices during the sale period should not be less than 20 per cent.

The aim of this arrangement is to ensure that sale-time reductions are real and not devices to deceive the public.

Mr. Hourani also held discussions with the visiting Tunisian economic delegation on ways of strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries. They talked about how best to implement the trade protocol signed between the two countries in 1982, and particularly how goods could be traded free from

customs duties.

Agreement was reached to maintain contacts in order to expand economic and trade cooperation, including the exchange of a commercial delegation from the public and private sectors with the aim of acquainted the two countries with each other's products. The visiting Tunisian delegation includes the Director of the Exports Centre Najih Ibn Milad and Director of Industry at the National Economy Ministry Oawmi Musa'id.

Cairo decision increases bank's capital by \$75m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab African International Bank (AAIB) has decided to increase its capital from \$125 million to \$200 million, Finance Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul Majid Qasem Nasser, who returned to Amman from Cairo Sunday, said.

Dr. Nasser represented the Jordanian treasury at the meeting of the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the general assembly of the bank.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Dr. Nasser said that, in view of the great expansion in the bank's activities and the need to strike a balance between capital equity and the financial structure, the general assembly decided to increase the bank's capital by the said amount.

The increase in the capital will be paid by the governments of Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Qatar and Saudi and Jordanian financial institutions. The activities of the bank, its subsidiaries, affiliated banks and representative offices cover the continents of Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

The general assembly approved the bank's consolidated financial statement and that of the banks affiliated with the group. The net profit of the group for 1982 totalled \$37 million.

Finance team returns from Rabat

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian delegation to the meeting of the first seminar of the institutions financing development projects in the Arab World returned to Amman from Rabat Sunday at the end of its three-days of meetings.

The seminar was organised by the Arab Development Fund in cooperation with the Moroccan government and was attended by representatives from 68 financial institutions in the Arab World.

Jordan presented a plan to the seminar to establish an association for specialised financial institutions in the Arab World.

BAEC leaves after 'successful' visit

By Margi Bryant
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The British Agricultural Export Council (BAEC) concluded Monday its first-ever trade mission to Jordan, described by Chief Executive John Thorneloe as "very successful".

The mission, which had also visited Iraq, included representatives from ten British companies producing agricultural inputs ranging from trailers and farm buildings to improved seeds, veterinary medicines and agrochemicals. Around half the companies already had well-established links with Jordan, while half were relative newcomers.

"Jordan isn't seen by British agro-industry as a big potential



John Thorneloe, compared to the oil-producing countries," John Thorneloe told the Jordan Times, "but that view has to be balanced against other factors."

"Jordan's central geographical position and good communications with other Middle Eastern countries mean that if products are doing well here, neighbouring countries will get to hear about it."

"This ripple effect is reinforced by the fact that Jordanian agriculturalists rate very highly in terms of expertise, and their opinion is valued throughout the Arab World. Companies who take a long-term view of business possibilities are therefore very interested in getting into the Jordanian market."

British companies already account for 24 per cent of all the agrochemicals Jordan imports, and 16 per cent of all the veterinary medicines.

NCC appoints Shreidah

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Consultative Council (NCC) elected Monday Abdul Majid Shreidah as second deputy chairman of the NCC. The position became vacant after NCC member Abdul Rafuf Al Rawabdeh was appointed mayor of Amman.

At the session held Monday, under the chairmanship of the first deputy of the NCC Kamel Al Dajani, the NCC discussed the financial and administrative committees three draft laws. They focused on the ratification of the loan agreements: for financing the Aqaba thermal power station concluded between Jordan and the OPEC Fund for International Development; for the Zarga water and sewerage project concluded between Jordan and the World Bank; and between Jordan and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in finance the agricultural credit project to develop small farms in the Jordan Valley.

The NCC also heard the government's views on two proposals

referred to the government by the NCC in previous sessions. The first was an establishing a fodder plant in the city of Ma'an, which the government approved. The plant will be constructed by the private sector after its economic viability has been established.

The second proposal involved the irrigation of land falling between Mukhaybeh and the eastern Ghor Canal. Prime Minister Badran said that the Mukhaybeh Canal will be ready next month to pump water in irrigate certain areas in the Jordan Valley. He said land falling below the level of the latter canal will also be irrigated.

The NCC also discussed two decisions taken by the social and educational committee on social

development in Jordan. The committee had recommended that a meeting be held between social workers to discuss how to improve services and how best to coordinate voluntary efforts in relation to the full time workforce. The NCC approved these two recommendations.

The NCC continued discussion of the traffic draft law and approved article 68 which defines the penalties that should be imposed in case of traffic regulation violations. The article stipulates that anyone: driving a vehicle without a driver's licence; under the influence of alcohol or drugs; failing to notify the closest police station after a car accident; using a forged licence plate or disregarding traffic signals, will be penalised by a minimum of seven days and a maximum of three months imprisonment, or a minimum fine ranging from JD 50 to JD 200.

CAEU adopts long-term planning, says Kaddouri

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Fakhri Kaddouri has said that the Arab Economic and Social Council has decided to adopt overall long-term planning in implementing joint Arab projects. This step, as part of the plans to achieve Arab economic integration especially in food self sufficiency, is an expression of the gains to be made from the overall coordination of

these projects, Kaddouri said.

Dr. Kaddouri was speaking on his return to Amman from Tunis after attending the 34th ordinary session of the council. He said the decision is of great practical significance, and that a working party will be formed to commission feasibility studies for the proposed joint Arab projects. He said the council discussed the steps which should be taken to implement the decision.

Hassan gives road safety suggestions

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has sent a message to Health Minister Zuhair Malhas in his capacity as president of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents praising his efforts and those of the society to curb road accidents.

Prince Hassan called in his letter for cooperation between society and the media, particularly television, in accident prevention.

In particular the Prince urged a weekly programme, showing the most serious accidents taking place during the previous week accompanied by interviews with the victims and the perpetrators of the accidents, to be screened. The letter also calls on drivers to participate in seminars to be organised for this purpose, and to allocate awards and medals to the 10 best drivers.

The society has decided to form a committee including representatives of the society and the traffic department to study Prince Hassan's letter and to implement its contents in cooperation with the concerned authorities.

GDR reception marks Leipzig Spring Fair

By Ara Voskian
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A reception was held by the embassy of the German Democratic Republic, to mark this year's Leipzig Spring Fair, at the Amman Chamber of Commerce building Monday.

The reception was attended by Mr. Hamdi Tabba'a, the president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, the ambassador to the German Democratic Republic and a large number of Jordanian businessmen.

The embassy's commercial counsellor, Mr. Helmut Moyses, in his opening speech welcomed all those who were present and briefed them on the Leipzig Spring Fair.

The Leipzig Spring Fair will begin on March 13 and will con-

tinue for one week, during which 100 countries will be represented by 9,000 participants who will display and demonstrate a huge variety of products to potential buyers.

The first Leipzig Spring Fair was held in 1950, and ever since the Leipzig fair has been staged twice annually in spring and in autumn.

"Every year more countries are participating in the Leipzig fair," the counsellor said, "Leipzig has become a centre for east-west trade."

According to the counsellor, although many Arab countries will participate in this year's spring fair, Jordan will not be present. But he is hopeful that there will be a Jordanian presence at the Leipzig Autumn Fair, which this year will be held in September.

U.K. gives £5m to UNRWA to help Palestinian refugees

LONDON (London Press Service) — Britain's annual grant to assist Palestinian refugees in need will be £5 million this year (1983) the Overseas Development Administration announced on 24 February.

As in previous years the money will be given directly to the United

Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which is responsible for the provision of facilities to the estimated two million Palestinians in need of help. Educational facilities, including primary and secondary schooling and vocational training, are regarded as the priority need.

Talal dam tanks up

JERASH (Petra) — Due to the recent heavy rainfall, the King Talal Dam has been completely filled, Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) officials announced.

The JVA spokesman said the water stored in the dam up to Monday morning amounted to 48 million cubic metres out of the total capacity of 56 million cubic metres.

Alia Folk Dance Troupe departs for UAE organised week of Jordan cultural events

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twenty-four dancers and musicians and an Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, representative left for Dubai Monday to perform at a "Jordan Week" celebration, to be staged in various international hotels in the Gulf, which is being organised by the UAE Ministry of Information and the Dubai office of Alia.

The Alia Folk Dance Troupe was invited to participate in the "Jordan Week" festivities taking place in Sharjah, Dubai, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi at hotels and Jordanian social clubs in the Gulf.

The programme will consist completely of Jordanian songs and dances, performed in the regional costumes of Jordan, including

those originating from Ramtha, Ma'an, Adwan and other bedouin regions. Live music will be provided by the group's own musicians using authentic instruments such as flute, oud, tabla, rahaba, violin and the back pipe.

This is the third outside engagement in which the Alia Folk Dance Troupe, which was formed in 1980, have appeared. Previously, it was invited to the Netherlands and France. The group was originally formed to contribute to other efforts being made to promote Jordan's cultural and tourist attractions abroad, as well as to provide a regular opportunity for Alia employees and others who enjoy folklore dancing

as a hobby. The troupe carries out its regular training at the Haya Arts Centre in Amman.

Although half the Jordanian group is composed of Alia employees, the rest are either employed elsewhere, or are still students. In addition to the 24 performers en route to the UAE, the group also includes newcomers who are perfecting their techniques for future performances, totalling a working group of 40.

After returning from the UAE on March 8, the Alia Folk Dance Troupe is expected to appear in the Netherlands "Holland Festival", at the University of Utah in the USA, and at various events and occasions in Jordan.



Some members of the Alia Folk Dance Troupe who are participating in a "Jordan Week" of cultural

events being staged throughout the United Arab Emirates (Jordan Times photo)

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 The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Something is needed

THE current deadlock in the Middle East peace process is not due to Philip Habib's lack of political clout, nor would his replacement, as U.S. President Reagan's Middle East negotiator by either former President Jimmy Carter or former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, produce the right medicine for this area's troubles.

Washington knows, and so do we, that its problem with the Israeli government has not lately been merely a clash of personalities. If the Reagan administration realises this but does not want to tackle it seriously however, Americans can go on shuffling their cards when their poker game with the Israelis is already lost.

It is a universally accepted fact nowadays that no amount of tension between the U.S. and Israel could result in a clash of interests between the two "strategic allies". Even if they had serious differences over the shape of the

West Bank or the Gulf of Mexico, they would still manage to meet half-way in Washington.

Given this reality, we Arabs are told that there is one of two options: either go it with the Americans and hope for the best or risk solitary confinement anywhere outside "Eretz Israel". This may be a tough offer, but one that has been taken or rejected according to need.

Israel seems to know what it wants—the land and all. Reagan or Kissinger or what not. Begin and government would not concede an inch of the occupied territories.

It looks like only the Arabs are in a dilemma. If we believe what we are told, we risk compromising our own convictions and another brighter future. If we do not, being fully aware of our enemy's intentions, we have to present the alternative. Times are bad, and that's why something must be done to change them.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Algeria, Morocco talks revitalise pan-Arabism

The summit meeting, held at an Algerian border village, between King Hassan of Morocco and the Algerian President Chadli Benjedid is an encouraging sign promising a great improvement in relations between the two states which can only have positive repercussions for pan-Arabism.

The move by the leaders is testimony to the fact that all long standing differences in the Arab World can be solved through talks. It also demonstrates that inter-Arab conflicts, which sometimes turn into armed hostilities, are temporary ones, and can easily be resolved if common Arab interests are given precedence.

The Moroccan-Algerian differences exhausted

much of the two countries' resources and diverted their potential which could more effectively be exploited to attain pan-Arab aims. Such differences of course, gave the enemies of the Arab Nation the opportunity to achieve their goals at the expense of the Arab people and its territory.

The Arab citizen, who has largely to see Arab solidarity now looks to the Rabat summit as a national step of great importance, and no matter what the final outcome of the Algerian-Moroccan contact is, they are certainly an important step on the long path to regaining Arab unity and solidarity in the face of such threatening external dangers.

Al Dustour: Maghreb rapprochement will help rally Arabs together

The first meeting between King Hassan of Morocco and the Algerian President Chadli Benjedid took place at the Algerian border village of "Aqid Lutfi" Sunday. The summit was held after seven years of hostilities between the two countries, which as a result have suffered great losses in the armed clashes in the Western Sahara.

It is hoped that the spirit of brotherhood in arms which prevailed during the years of struggle for independence will characterise the new relations in peace between the two sides. North African Arabs are capable of contributing tremendously to the common Arab struggle against the continued Zionist threat, and the tireless aggressive practices perpetrated against Arab rights throughout its homeland.

The increased mutual understanding between

the two Arab countries is the outcome of the calabre which is characteristic of the leaderships of Morocco and Algeria; however Arab mediation, particularly by Saudi Arabia and Tunisia, must have had a great impact on the quality of contacts between the two countries. Such a role is greatly desired in other parts of the Arab World as well.

The Lebanese crisis, which is being exacerbated by inter-Lebanese hostilities, in particular can greatly benefit from such initiatives. Likewise the Iraqi losses in a war, perpetrated by the Iranian aggressors could be alleviated given similar attention.

The positive step made by the Algerian and Moroccan leaderships should instigate a new Arab effort to settle differences and rally forces among all Arab countries.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arabs, U.S. must support Lebanon's independence

The Lebanese negotiators are confronted with an Israeli attempt to continue their presence in southern Lebanon through the recognition of their proxy renegade Major Sa'ad Haddad and his forces.

The Israeli campaign, launched by Haddad's forces, to drive Palestinians out of southern Lebanese cities and villages is another step characterising the tough Israeli stand at the tripartite negotiations. Even the U.S. attempts to reach a compromise position in the negotiations are faced by Israel's persistence in maintaining a military presence in

Lebanon. The firm stand adopted by the Lebanese governments deserve to be adequately supported by all Arab countries. Lebanon must not be forced to compromise its sovereignty, territorial integrity and its Arab allegiance. But if Israel is left with a carte blanche to establish its de facto occupation of Lebanese territories, this will reveal that the U.S. stand in any future negotiations on the West Bank and Gaza will be ineffective, and subject to the whim of the Israeli extremists.

Finns turning conservative

By Martin Summerhill
 Reuters

HELSINKI — A decline of the divided Communist Party and possible entry into the government of the Conservative National Coalition Party may be the most notable results of Finland's general election next month.

The National Coalition, nominally rightwing but which sees itself as centrist, has for decades been excluded from power, partly for fear of upsetting the Soviet Union, Finland's dominating eastern neighbour. But the country's increasing urbanisation and swelling middle class have boosted the Conservatives' support, and opinion polls show they may win close to 50 seats in the voting on March 20-21 for the 200-member Eduskunta (parliament).

This would reaffirm the National Coalition's second place behind the Social Democrats, who are expected to win nearly 60 seats, and would increase pressures for them to join in a ruling alliance.

The big issue is whether they can overcome their persistent antagonisms and agree to lead the strong government which will be needed to tackle the country's mounting economic difficulties. The Communist-dominated People's Democratic League left the current multi-party government at the start of this year after voting in parliament against the 1983 defence budget approved by its other members.

Split since 1966 into a majority mainstream wing, which further south would be called Eurocommunist, and a powerful Stalinist faction, the communist show no sign of ending their dissension.

Doctrinal concessions

The hardliners, who retain control of some party organs as well as the vice-chairmanship, blame its decline on doctrinal concessions, and their supporters intend to stand against majority candidates in some constituencies.

The polls predict that the league, which also contains some Socialists, may drop half a dozen of the 35 seats it currently holds. Analysts agree that any further decline in its popular support would make it less attractive as a partner in the next government. Exclusion of the Communists would greatly enhance the chances of a broadly-based alliance between the Social Democrats, the National Coalition Party and the Centre Party.

The polls show the agrarian-based Centre Party, long the pivot between right and left in parliament, may retain about 40 seats in its newly-forged alliance with the tiny liberal group.

A government with a strong parliamentary majority will be necessary to combat inflation, currently above nine per cent, unemployment, expected to rise to seven per cent this year, and increasing national debt. The economy seems likely to dominate the

campaign, with few indications that foreign policy, which mainly concerns keeping on good terms with the Soviet Union, will enter the picture.

In any event, foreign affairs are strictly the province of President Mauno Koivisto, who does not face an election until 1988 and who is sticking to the policy of cooperation with the Soviet Union conducted for a quarter of a century by Dr. Urho Kekkonen until he retired last year.

Trade to the West

The next government is likely to concentrate on promoting sales to the West, Finland's major trading outlet. Trade with the Soviet Union, which accounts for about 25 per cent of exports and imports, seems likely to mark time or even decline in value following the drop in the price of oil, Finland's major purchase from its eastern neighbour.

Personalities are not likely to figure largely in the coming elections. The chairman of the National Coalition Party, Ilkka Suominen, is not even in parliament, and more than half of the Finns questioned in a recent poll expected incumbent Social Democratic Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa, 52, to retain his post.

The same poll showed that only a quarter actually preferred Mr. Sorsa as government leader, about the same rating as that gained by his party, but far more than that scored by any other politician.

A time for statesmanship

By Rami G. Khouri

Rarely has the Middle East seen such a number of apparently conflicting signals about the possibilities of progress towards a negotiated peace settlement. On the surface of things, it would seem that we have a bad deadlock among the three principal parties — the United States, Israel and the Arabs, but more particularly the Palestinians and their chosen leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The Israelis, in their current militaristic mode, have to be left on the sidelines for a while. They are obviously unwilling to make any gesture towards reconciliation with the Palestinians, and offer only the prospect of Palestinian autonomy as a transitional phase towards a more permanent autonomy under Israeli control. Leaving out Israel for a moment, we are left with the Arabs and the Americans.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions in Algiers last week were highly consistent with past PNC trends and style — moving yet another step towards open

declaration of an intention to live in peace with an Israeli state, yet couching such a step in vague language. There is no doubt that the PNC's endorsement of the Fez Arab summit resolutions of last autumn is a significant advance. If the PNC is imprecise about recognising the state of Israel, one asks: Where is the corresponding Israeli recognition of Palestinian rights? Where is the American recognition of Palestinian rights? If the Palestinians offer a substantive vagueness, the Israeli and the Americans offer much less. And, isn't it yet another display of crude American double-standards to point to deliberate Palestinian vagueness as a sign of weakness and indecision, but to justify American-inspired vagueness as "constructive ambiguity" that is necessary for peace? On whom is the joke?

I think, nevertheless, that there are some heartening signs on the horizon, particularly in Arab-American dynamics. The statement by President Reagan the other day that "we can't go on

with these people (the Palestinians) in not providing something in the nature of a homeland," gets my nomination for the Global Vagueness Award for 1983. Yet, behind the vagueness there could be a more substantive American urge to deal with the Palestinian issue in a forthright and honest manner. This was indicated by the statement a few days later by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that the United States rejected the Israeli proposition that the Palestinians can have their homeland in Jordan; he asserted that the core issue in the Middle East is the "legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people."

It is interesting to contrast these two statements with earlier American declarations on the Middle East, at the start of the Reagan presidency. Gone are the excessive obsessions with Russians; gone are the simplistic theories of Israel as the most important American strategic interest between Morocco and Pakistan. The American ability to focus more pre-

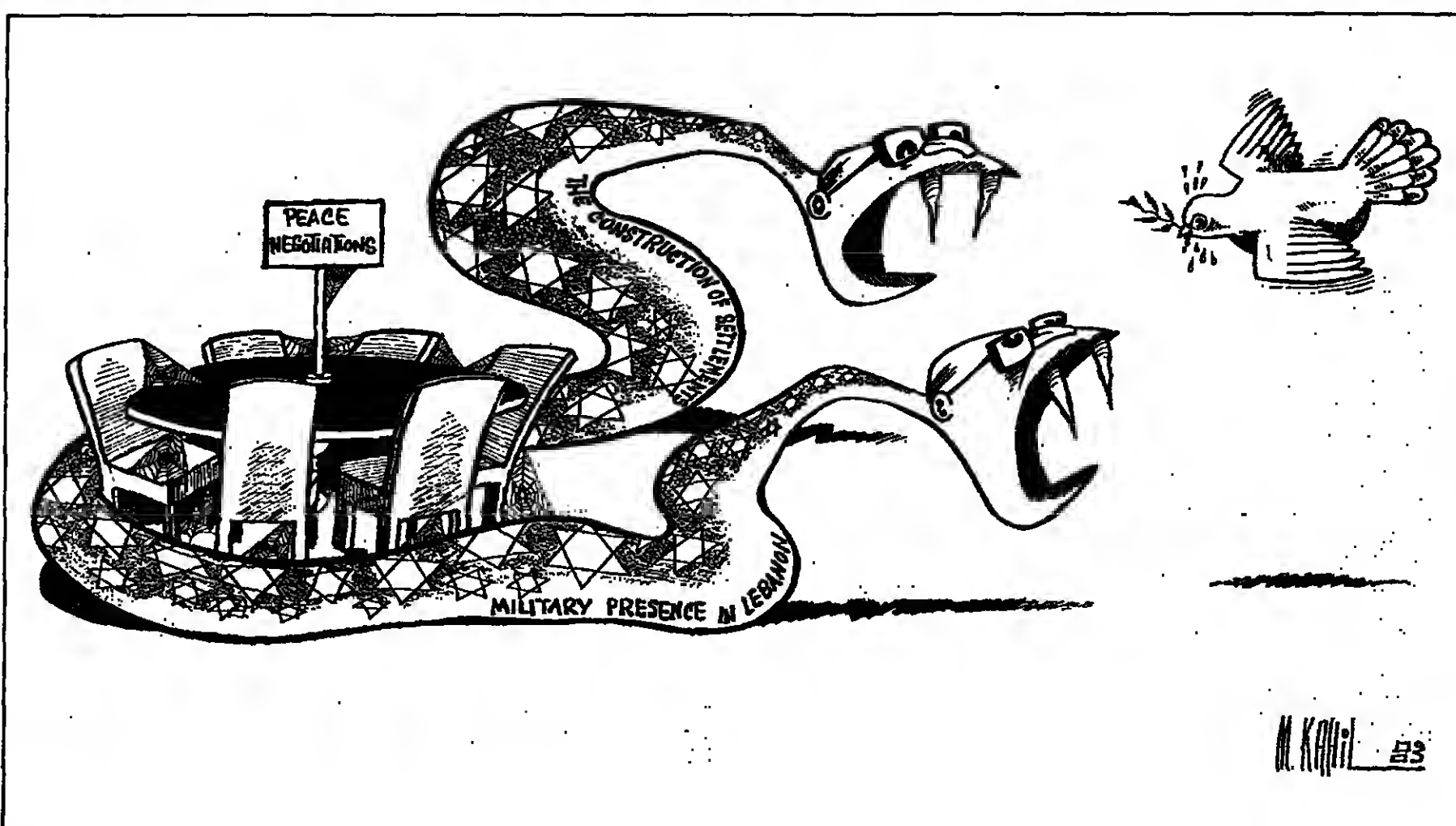
cisely on the Palestinian issue is an encouraging sign, and we are seeing indications from the PLO and the other key Arab states, namely Jordan, that an American gesture of goodwill and fairness would always be reciprocated. When the Reagan initiative was offered on September 1, the Arabs countered with the Fez summit resolution. PLO has since endorsed the Fez resolution, and given serious consideration to the Reagan initiative; and senior PLO leaders are now stating in interviews that the PLO would support the Reagan initiative if the United States endorsed the principle of self-determination for the Palestinians. Mr. Reagan replies that "these people" need something "in the nature of a homeland".

Something is going on here that needs to be encouraged and nurtured. The motives for whatever is happening are complex, and varied. Nevertheless, it should be obvious that prospects for an American-Arab understanding progress towards a negotiated peace are improving slowly yet

surely. One should also remember, however, that we are still in the realm of words. There are no signs yet that the American verbal stumblings towards a more coherent policy on the Palestinian issue will be translated into action.

The mere fact, however, that the United States sees Palestinian legitimate rights and aspirations as the core of the problems of the area and talks of the need for something in the nature of a homeland suggests that the United States leadership is engaged in something in the nature of an intellectual and moral reformation.

Were the blood of Sabra and Shatila and the apparently American-sanctioned destruction and occupation of south Lebanon too much for the American conscience to handle? If the signs we have had from Washington indicate a more serious American desire to deal with the Palestinian issue, the prospects for an equally serious Arab response are good. If there is statesmanship in the air, this is the time to exercise it.



Agreement on verification might set precedence

By Tom Heneghan
 Reuters

GENEVA — The United States and the Soviet Union, wary of possible cheating on future arms limitation pacts, have begun sounding each other out on how to prevent it. Before the United Nations Committee on Disarmament here, the superpowers this month sketched out opening positions in what looks like being a long debate on the tangled arms control issue of "verification".

They made their proposals for two different treaties — one banning chemical weapons, the other outlawing all nuclear tests. But Western diplomats said agreement on verification in these areas could set precedents for other U.S.-Soviet arms talks such as the Geneva negotiations aimed at limiting intercontinental nuclear missiles.

Verification boils down to the central question of whether a country will let outside monitors enter its weapons plants and nuclear fac-

ilities to check that arms accords are being kept. In the case of a proposed agreement outlawing chemical weapons, the United States says it will and has proposed a system of regular on-site inspections, plus special visits on demand, to monitor it.

The Soviet Union, long reluctant to admit foreign inspectors, last week proposed on-site checks, under certain conditions, to police a future treaty banning all nuclear tests. The U.S. chief delegate to the disarmament committee, Louis Fisher, said the Soviet offer did not appear to go far enough in ensuring that all suspected cases of cheating could be looked into on the spot. But he said it would have to be studied carefully, a view Western European diplomats shared.

Scandinavian envoys noted the offer came only a week after Moscow agreed for the first time to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its civil nuclear plants. "Moscow has now made its position official here and, coming after the IAEA

announcement, there might be something behind this," a Nordic diplomat said.

Verification has been pushed to the forefront of arms negotiations by the growing sophistication of nuclear weapons, which has made it increasingly difficult for spy satellites and radars to detect whether a missile has one or several warheads.

Stringent checks

Since U.S. conservatives successfully opposed the 1979 SALT II treaty on the grounds that it could not be properly monitored, Washington has insisted on stringent checks against cheating for any new arms agreement.

Under the U.S. proposal, each signatory of a chemical weapons ban would have to agree to regular on-site inspections by international experts designated by the U.N. and to allow other states visits on demand if they suspected any cheating. If a special visit were refused, the country demanding it could take the case to the U.N.

Security Council

U.S. arms experts said agreement on verification of a chemical test ban would set an important precedent not only for other U.S.-Soviet arms talks but also for two U.S.-Soviet nuclear treaties Washington has not yet ratified.

The State Department said last month President Reagan was expected to decide soon what improvements the U.S. would seek in verification measures in the two treaties — one in 1974 setting a threshold for nuclear tests and another in 1976 on peaceful nuclear explosions. Moscow's proposal recognised on-site inspections as an essential element of a comprehensive nuclear test ban, but was less clear on how far such an accord should go towards full, regular monitoring.

Soviet delegate Viktor Issraelyan said Moscow would allow outside monitors. If an inspection request were turned down, the requesting states could complain to the Security Council, with

whose decision all signatories would undertake to cooperate, he said. The Soviet Union and the United States, as permanent members of the Council, have the right of veto.

Mr. Issraelyan referred frequently to a General Assembly resolution last December calling for a full nuclear test ban despite disagreements on verification and hinted that U.S. demands on verification were holding up an agreement. Western diplomats said Moscow could be trying to isolate Washington and rally public opinion around a treaty regardless of its verification clauses.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said last week that too much insistence on tight monitoring would only hold up final agreement on a full test ban treaty.

"Verification is certainly essential to disagreement arrangements, but in the absence of mutual trust, it can assume an importance beyond its original purpose," he said.

Hungary considers political reform

By David Buchan

BUDAPEST — Hungary may have parliamentary elections in two years' time, with two or more candidates contesting individual constituencies. The candidates will have to be officially approved, and the degree of electoral competition may vary around the country, but this seemingly small step would be a significant stride for a country in the Eastern bloc, which does not offer a choice of political personality, let alone of policy, at the polls.

The aim is to see whether reform can breathe new life into Hungarian politics as it has into the economy. Proponents of the electoral reform say it is an inevitable and long-awaited consequence of the decentralising and market-orientated economic changes that started in 1968, suffered a reverse in the mid-1970s, and gathered speed again after 1978.

"Economic reform was always linked to changes in the political structure," says Mr. Reszo Nyers, the Communist Party central committee member who is gen-

erally dubbed father of the Hungarian economic reforms. This is echoed by another central committee member, Mr. Istvan Huszar, who runs a party institute closely involved in drafting the electoral changes. Some others are less sure that consumer choice should be extended beyond the economy. According to Mr. Huszar, three changes are being contemplated in time for the 1985 national and local elections:

— The ruling Communist Party would formally instruct its front organisation, the People's Patriotic Front (PPF), to encourage the nomination of candidates for each parliamentary seat. Candidates could not be forced to run, "but, at the very least, if constituency nomination meetings throw up several candidates, the PPF would not put any obstacles in the way of them all running."

— Runners-up in elections would be designated stand-by M.P.s. If a sitting member died or resigned, the stand-by would take his or her place. Thus, with something akin to the French "supplement" sys-

tem, election losers would not be "discouraged."

— National leaders, such as Mr. Janos Kadar, the party first secretary, would be taken off the present individual constituency list, and put on a special uncontested list comprising 10-15 per cent of the parliament's 350 seats. The stated aim would be to prevent notables like Mr. Kadar from overshadowing rivals and inhibiting competition. It would also remove any risk of their ever being defeated.

Some liberal critics outside the Hungarian political establishment argue that such a mechanistic, limited approach can achieve nothing. But establishment reformers believe that debate on the hustings would improve that in parliament, without breaching the bounds of Hungary's "socialist reality" or diluting the political composition of M.P.s, half of whom are not Communist Party members at present.

There is some cut-and-thrust in the committees of corridors of parliament but, in plenary sessions, "we behave as if in church," says

Mr. Nyers, who is also an M.P. "The measure of solemnity in parliament's working should be reduced," urges Mr. Huszar, an M.P. too.

The more philosophical aim behind enlivening Budapest's neo-gothic parliament is to provide a wider and more public forum for reaching a consensus between Hungary's increasingly outspoken and diverse interest groups than the back-stairs network of consultations existing at the moment. Virtually no one disputes the overall prosperity which economic reform has brought in recent years. Many grumble, however, at the prospect this year of a 4 per cent reduction in their real wages, which is the main domestic feature of the current International Monetary Fund adjustment programme for Hungary.

Consumers — there is now a National Council of Consumers — are upset by the prospect of further price rises of at least 7.5 per cent this year. Trade unions are anxious about the planned switch of labour from unprofitable to

profitable sectors. The old and the unskilled feel left behind in the rush for freelance extra jobs in the largely private "second economy."

"The style of the Kadar leadership has not to consult constantly and not to throw its weight around. But it is clear, for the future, that we have to institutionalise this style. The style is not enough," Mr. Nyers says.

The tricky issue of political change has come to the fore not only to complement the economic reforms. Fifteen years' experience with those reforms has given Hungarians the self-confidence to tackle and control the pace of reform, though it has spun out of control elsewhere in Eastern Europe. That confidence is infectious. It seems to be the basis of Soviet acquiescence in Hungarian experimentation; now apparently reinforced by the ascent to the Soviet leadership of Mr. Yuri Andropov, erstwhile ambassador to Budapest.

— A Financial Times news feature

**Text and photographs by
Carol G. Bollinger**

Over 210 million people in more than 71 countries are afflicted with the disease schistosomiasis, also known as bilharzia. A parasitic disease caused by blood flukes called schistosomes, it rarely kills the human hosts outright. People who support large numbers of flukes suffer a variety of internal complaints including general weakness, indigestion, incontinence, obstruction of the ureter and kidney infection. Various strains affect the urinary system and intestinal veins. Both varieties, besides being physically painful, detract from the infected

As with many parasitic diseases, the victims are usually the poor in underdeveloped countries. Paradoxically, development sometimes aids in the spread of the disease as more and more water projects are created which provide a hospitable environment for the snails which form a link in the spread of the disease.

Treatment of infected persons is possible with chemotherapy but reinfection is likely if the water sources remain infected.

threatening Jordan is *Schistosoma hematobium* which affects the urinary system.

The adult blood flukes live and mate in the blood vessels of a human host. The females then lay up to 3,000 eggs a day, many of which are deposited in the walls of the bladder. Eggs escape with the urine and if they reach fresh water, larvae known as miracidia will hatch from them. These larvae have 24 hours to find the tiny snail *Bulinus truncatus* to which they can attach themselves.

Once in the snail larvae metamorphose into sac-like creatures that give birth to thousands of flukes called cercariae. These cercariae are then released into the water and have only two days to find a human victim. They can penetrate through the skin of any part of the human body they contact in the water and work their way into the veins. The cercariae then move with the blood stream through the body to the liver where they mature into adult schistosomes. Then female and male

pairs leave the liver and move together to their final destination in the veins of the bladder wall. Here the cycle begins again.

Historically Jordan has not had a problem with this disease. It is basically an arid country and there is a small snail which forms a critical link in the regeneration cycle of the parasite requires an aquatic environment. In order to complete the life cycle of the disease two essential elements are required -- a host snail called *Bulinus truncatus* and infected human beings. Surveys conducted in Jordan from the 1950's showed no evidence of the *Bulinus* snail until 1975 when a check showed a *Bulinus* colony living in a cemented reservoir in the Jordan Valley. This reservoir received water from the new East Ghor Canal, a source of irrigation water for the whole Valley.

Dr. Elias Saliba, a parasitologist and former chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Jordan, was alarmed. If the East Ghor Canal was carrying the *Bulinus* snails they could spread throughout the whole valley. The reservoir was dried and the snails killed. More surveys were carried out in other areas of the Jordan Valley and Dr. Saliba and his graduate assistants examined snails by the hundreds.

In 1978 a survey team from the University of Jordan located another colony of *Bulinus* in an old Roman spring pool near the ancient city of Jerash. Anxiety peaked again. The water from the Roman pool flows into the King Talal Dam which in turn supplies irrigation water for much of the Jordan Valley. Once established in the ideal habitat in the valley, they would be virtually impossible to control.

Jordan is a labour deficit country and beginning in 1976 thousands of Egyptians began coming to the country to work on the farms in the Jordan Valley. Screening has shown that approximately 23 per cent of them were infected with schistosomiasis.

The stage was set for the spread of schistosomiasis in Jordan. *Bulinus* snails, infected Egyptian workers, and major new water projects created conditions for schistosomiasis to become endemic.

At this point, in 1979, the government of Jordan asked for USAID's help. USAID was requested to fund a grant of \$130,000 to the University of Jordan to conduct research on the snails in Jordan and the project was underway.

These funds financed an agreement between the University of Jordan and the University of Lowell, the former to conduct surveys and the latter to provide scientific backstopping and train Jordanians at Lowell's research centre.

The Ministry of Health established a Schistosomiasis Control Unit affiliated with its Malaria Eradication Programme and utilising its established infrastructure. Ministry of Health staff were sent to study snail identification, surveillance techniques and the application of molluscicides in the Sudan.

The University of Michigan was selected to provide assistance as

its research and training facility is unique in its ability to provide support to the University of Jordan in the study of snails and specifically in medical malacology. Dr. Saliba and Dr. Mohammed Rida Tawfik, chief of Malaria and Bilharzia Control for the Ministry of Health, were sent to the United States for training at both the Universities of Michigan and Lowell as well as the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta.

In 1980 *Bulinus* snails were found in large numbers along the shore of the new King Tulad Dam, which had been full for the first time after a five-year drought. This development posed a new challenge. The reservoir of the dam has a coastline of nine kilometres and to effectively exterminate all the snails seemed a nearly impossible task.

The Ministry of Health requested AID to provide NAMRU (U.S. Navy Area Medical Research Unit) technicians from Egypt to assess the situation and make recommendations. Lt. Chris H. Gardiner of NAMRU came to Jordan within days of discovery of the colony, bringing with him diagnostic equipment. Several weeks later, a team of NAMRU technicians arrived to train laboratory and medical technicians in both diagnosis and treatment of the disease, especially those stationed in the Jordan Valley.

Dr. Alfred A. Buck, a specialist in schistosomiasis with AID's Office of Health in Washington, met with the Supreme Committee for the Prevention of Schistosomiasis and helped to outline a plan to prevent the establishment of the disease in Jordan.

Simultaneously, Dr. Zuhair Malhas, Minister of Health, who had suggested the Supreme Committee for the Prevention of Schistosomiasis, alerted the Cou-

neil of Ministers, which allocated the necessary funds to purchase molluscicides and the human medicine, Praziquantel, as well as the launch for spraying the reservoir at the King Talal Dam. The molluscicides and medicines were purchased through the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Under the plan developed by the Supre Committee, all Egyptians working in the Jordan Valley are required to carry a schistosomiasis card indicating that they are free of the disease. Each worker is checked three times since an infected person often can have negative test results. The card must be renewed annually.

Those workers found to have the disease are given immediate free treatment. In fact, numerous Egyptians not working in the valley have sought temporary work there in order to be treated.

The Ministry of Health and the University of Jordan survey and surveillance teams are working on a daily basis checking all springs and bodies of water throughout Jordan for the presence of *Bulimus*. "Hot spots", or those places having the ideal habitat for the snails, are charted on maps for frequent checking. The surveillance teams spot check water bodies to determine if the environment is that favoured by *Bulimus*. If snails are found, they are immediately eradicated.

The overall control plan calls for important tasks on the part of the other ministries as well. Public security personnel of the Ministry of Interior conduct daily spot checks of the Egyptians working in the valley to ensure that they have their "schisto" cards and that they are up to date. The Jordan Valley Authority is charged with cleaning plant growth from the canals, storage ponds and irriga-



igation ditches in order to lessen the chances of creating a favourable habitat for the snails. Experts provide an ideal year-round habitat for the vector snail. The Ministry of Health is working to

The Jordanian Army also has contributed to the campaign. Soldiers have helped clear mud from snail infested pools, to ensure that none have survived mollusciciding by burrowing in the mud.

Recently, large colonies of vector snails have been found along the Zarqa River, which feeds into the King Talal Dam, where the first major focus of snails was found. Surveys of the area have discovered that warm springs are feeding into the Zarqa, which act as breeding ponds, since their water temperature and other fac-



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هكذا في الأصل

SPORTS

Tennis team returns from 'successful' Khartoum trip

By Ara Voskian
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian national tennis team which participated in the 4th Annual Arab Championship in Khartoum, has returned to Amman.

Commenting on the tournament the Jordanian team coach Mrs. Maureen Stalla said that the trip was "successful" but the competition was "tough".

"Rami Faraj, one of the Jordanian players, came third in the juniors' tournament," said Mrs. Stalla, while the other Jordanian players, Ziad Dajani and Naser Kamal, played against adults. "They played well but lost," Mrs. Stalla added.

According to the Jordanian team coach the tournament was well organised and the Sudanese were "extremely hospitable and nice people."

"The weather was very hot," said Mrs. Stalla, "and it was the first time we played on grass courts and it took our players some time to readjust after our return."

Mrs. Stalla said that the Sudanese staged a highly qualified

team, while the Moroccan team "is a professional team. They have played international competitions with good results."

Sudan's second team represented Palestine at the Khartoum championship while Iraq and Kuwait staged "good young teams like ours."

The fifth Arab Tennis Championship will be held in Jordan next year, according to Mrs. Stalla, who pointed out that there are 13 tennis courts available in the area of the Jordan Tennis Federation, which could be used for the tournaments.

The third Arab Tennis Championship was held two years ago in Tunis.

According to Mrs. Stalla the Jordanian tennis team is preparing for the Arab Junior Tennis Tournament which is scheduled for September this year in Morocco. "We could do well in this tournament," she added.

Prior to this tournament the Jordanian team will exchange visits with Kuwait. The Kuwaiti tennis team is expected to come to Amman in June to have a friendly match with the Jordanian team while the Jordanians will visit Kuwait in July.

Furthermore the Jordanian junior tennis team is invited to Malaysia this month.

According to Mrs. Stalla, at the moment the Jordanian Tennis Federation is preparing for the official opening of the federation courts sometime this year, during which the Sudanese tennis team will be invited to put on an exhibition and possibly to play doubles against the Jordanians.

"I would like to have 12-year-old youngsters for training," said Mrs. Stalla who is also in charge of training at the Jordanian Tennis Federation, "16 is a late age for competition."

Presently there are two boys' teams and one girls' team, consisting of 36 youngsters, being trained by Mrs. Stalla.

"With a broad base of young players we have a better chance of developing champions," Mrs. Stalla said.



American youngsters in soccer match sponsored by a community league in Vienna, Virginia

Americans turn to soccer

By Michael J. Bandler

NEW YORK — Soccer, once as unfamiliar a sport in the United States as baseball is in Europe, is blossoming these days across the nation on diverse age levels, both as a sport to watch and as a game to play.

Galvanized in the 1970s by telecasts of World Cup matches and by the feats of professional players from abroad in the U.S. professional leagues, Americans have warmed to the game quickly, and with considerable enthusiasm.

Early soccer enthusiasts predicted a few years ago that it wouldn't be long before soccer would become the number one participation sport with children. Today, youth soccer organizations are experiencing tremendous growth; on the college level, soccer has become a major intercollegiate sport.

Statistics tell the story. According to the Sporting Goods Dir-

ectory, nearly eight million people are playing soccer in the United States, three-quarters of them on a non-organized basis. In other words, apart from the two million or so who are engaged on professional or amateur levels—in leagues, federations or the like, some six million Americans are playing soccer simply for the fun of it.

The figures are even more dramatic when broken down by age. About 4.3 million boys and 2.4 million girls under 18 play soccer in the United States. Added to that is the fact that 70 per cent of soccer-playing youths are under age 13. Of the total of eight million players, 59 per cent are under 13.

Further information on youth participation bodes well for the future of soccer in the United States. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, 133 per cent more high (secondary) schoolers par-

ticipated in soccer in 1981 than in 1971. Even more interesting—and more significant, from the standpoint of viewing as well as participating in sports—is the fact that the National Collegiate Athletic Association reports that there are more varsity soccer programmes on U.S. college and university campuses than there are American football programmes.

And is anyone out there on the sidelines, in the stands, in the arenas, watching all of this soccer activity? Just take a look at the statistics. During a time frame (1975 to 1981) when total attendance at American football, baseball, basketball and hockey games rose somewhere between 19 and 44 per cent, the number of spectators at professional soccer matches soared by nearly 240 per cent.

Obviously, there exists a bright future for soccer in the United States.

—USIA

Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan breaks indoor mile record

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — Eamonn Coghlan of Ireland became the first man to break three minutes 50 seconds in an indoor mile Sunday when won the event at the U.S. Olympic invitational track and field meeting here.

Coghlan clocked 3:49.78 to better his own world record of 3:50.6 set two years ago in San Diego, California. Second place went to Ray Flynn, also of Ireland, in 3:51.20, the third fastest indoor mile ever.

Steve Scott of the United States was third in 3:52.28, the fifth best time ever, and Jose Abascal of Spain followed with a Spanish national indoor mark of 3:52.56, the sixth best on record.

Coghlan raised his arms above his head as he broke the tape and took a victory lap before more than 11,000 cheering fans, breaking his stride to make several jubilant leaps into the air.

"You can't take that away—being the first man to break the 3:50 barrier," he said.

Ross Donoghue of the United States set an early fast pace before dropping out of the race at the halfway point. Coghlan, whose first three splits were 56.6, 59.4 and 58.8, then took over the lead and quickened the pace, turning in a final quarter of 55.0.

"On the last lap I gave it my all," he said. "I thought of my late coach and my dad who passed away. I did it for them."

Coghlan's father died just three weeks ago while his coach Jerry Sarhan died last year.

Flynn was exhilarated by his own performance and credited the design of the track with helping to produce the fast times.

"This is the fastest indoor track I've ever run on," he said. "The bends are beautiful and you could take them very comfortably."

Coghlan, winner of seven successive indoor miles, also took pride in the track. "We now have the number one track in the world here at the Meadowlands," he said. "I helped design it and this was my first run on it. It's made up from the best points of indoor tracks across the country."

Higuera wins La Quinta Grand Prix

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Jose Higuera of Spain combined an accurate first service with some remarkable passing shots to beat Eliot Tetscher of the United States 6-4, 6-2 Sunday in the final of a \$255,000 men's tennis tournament here.

Higuera, 29, seeded third in the week-long Grand Prix event, took one hour 45 minutes to defeat the fourth-seeded Tetscher and earn the \$32,000 first prize.

Tetscher received \$16,000.

In the doubles, Raul Ramirez of Mexico and Brian Gottfried of the United States defeated Tian Viljoen and Danie Visser of South Africa 6-3, 6-3.

Higuera, who battled back from a severe bout of hepatitis in 1980 to reach his number 11 world ranking, opened up a 5-2 lead before breaking Tetscher's service to capture the first set.

Tetscher, 23, took the first two

games of the second set, but Higuera won six in a row for the match.

"I think I had the match under control all the way," said Higuera, a clay court specialist, after his first tournament victory on a surface other than clay.

"I think Eliot was a little impatient. I think that when he plays against me, he thinks it's going to be a tough match and sometimes he goes for too good of a shot."

Bunge defeats Hanika; wins \$150,000 tournament

OAKLAND, California (R) — Bettina Bunge defeated fellow West German Sylvia Hanika 6-3, 6-3 Sunday to win a \$150,000 women's tennis tournament here.

Bunge, 19, the sixth seed, broke Hanika's service twice in the first set and three times in the second. Despite playing with bandages on her left thigh and right knee, she hit crisp strokes throughout the match.

She said afterwards: "My strategy from the start was to attack her backhand and keep her from getting her rhythm and I think I succeeded in doing that."

Bunge, who is world-ranked

one below Hanika at ninth, was born in Switzerland, grew up in Peru and graduated two years ago from a U.S. high school.

She played for the West German team last summer in the Federation Cup competition and said she hoped her win Sunday would help her standing in West Germany.

"Last year I was Germany's no. 1 player but today Sylvia is," Bunge explained. "I'm more concerned with my German ranking right now than with my world ranking."

Bunge won \$30,000 and Hanika \$15,000.

S. Africa welcomes rugby tours

STELLENBOSCH, South Africa (R) — South Africa would welcome overseas rugby tours, but they must be organized through the proper channels, South African Rugby Board President Danie Craven said here Monday.

Dr. Craven was commenting on a report in the London Observer newspaper that rugby officials from the republic had approached top British players to entice them to play in South Africa, shunned by many international sports teams because of apartheid.

"We will do nothing without consent of the four home unions and if such a tour should take place, it would be done with their blessing," he said.

West German soccer manager under criticism

BONN (R) — West German soccer manager Jupp Derwall returned home from Portugal last Thursday with fierce criticism ringing in his ears following his side's 1-0 defeat in Lisbon last Wednesday.

West Germany's inept performance—it was their first ever defeat by Portugal—coupled with losing to Northern Ireland in the European Championship last November, is certain to increase public demand for Derwall to resign.

His side, which included eight of the team which lost 3-1 to Italy in the World Cup final last July, lacked cohesion and inspiration against a makeshift, hastily prepared Portuguese side and merely showed that the defeat in Belfast was not the "one-off" had game Derwall had dismissed it as.

Afterwards he admitted: "No one could have expected it. It was the worst game since I took over, even worse than the one against Northern Ireland."

But others went further. Hermann Neuberger, President of the West German Football Association (DFB), claimed: "That was the worst game I've ever seen."

Derwall used the friendly international to blood some of his more promising youngsters. But the team badly lacked creativity in midfield.

Wolfgang Dremmler, who teamed up with Lothar Matthaus and new-boy Wolfgang Roloff in West Germany's engine room said: "We have not lost our ind-

ividual strengths. It's just we are not a team any more."

Derwall was without the new lynch-pin of his side Bernd Schuster—the man chosen to replace former captain Paul Breitner. Schuster was not released by Spanish club Barcelona.

But Portugal were left with only three regulars in their side after Benfica and Sporting Lisbon withdrew several players because of important European club matches this week.

Neuberger said he would try and persuade 30-year-old Hamburg midfielder Felix Magath to return to the fold.

But Magath, who retired from international soccer after the World Cup with 24 caps, never displayed his best club form for his country and many would consider his return a step backwards—and an admission that young players with the ability of legendary greats like Wolfgang Overath or Gunter Netzer are no longer to be found.

Derwall knows he has to solve his side's problems before the next European Championship qualifying match against Albania on March 30 if he wants to see out his contract which runs until 1986.

A West German national soccer manager has never been sacked but supporters increasingly believe that Derwall has run out of ideas and a change is needed—and needed quickly—if they are to have any chance of retaining their European Championship.

Neuberger, one of Derwall's toughest critics in recent months, was quick to condemn his manager after West Germany's patchy World Cup performance.

If Derwall does go, the chances are that his former assistant Erich Ribbeck, who resigned after a row with Derwall, would be asked to take over.

Certainly, a change of faces in, or outside, the team is necessary if West Germany are to shed their fast-developing habit of losing to soccer's secondary powers.

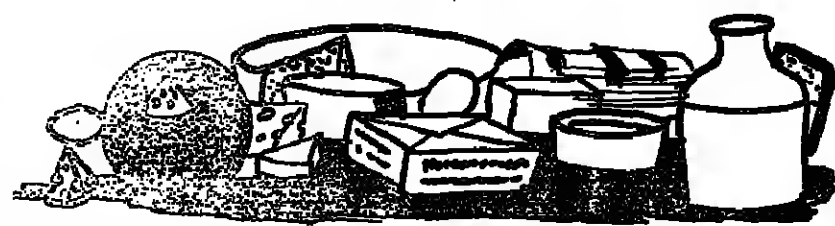
Algeria, Northern Ireland and now Portugal have all inflicted defeats in the last year. Derwall knows he has to stop the rot—before they take on Albania.

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ECONOMY

EEC denies Third World accusations

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The European Community defended itself against Third World accusations of protectionism Monday, saying the United States and Japan raised tougher barriers to developing countries' products.

"The Community is dedicated to combating pressures of protectionism and encouraging equal trade partnerships with developing countries," said Mr. Christopher Tugendhat, vice-president of the Community commission.

He told a news conference that over the last few years the Com-

munity had bought goods worth more than \$37 billion from developing countries while in the same period American and Japanese purchases totalled \$29 billion and \$6 billion respectively.

"The Community is second to none among developed countries in maintaining and developing markets for developing countries," Mr. Tugendhat said, after addressing an industrial conference in Kuala Lumpur organized by the Community and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Regan predicts oil to cost around \$25 by end of March

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan Sunday predicted oil would cost between \$25 and \$30 a barrel by the end of March, but President Reagan's chief economic adviser said prices could fall much lower.

Mr. Martin Feldstein, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said some analysts had forecast a price fall of about one third to the low 20s. He added: "I don't think that's too low."

The two officials made their predictions at a Gulf oil minister threatened to undercut the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and unilaterally set new price levels.

Oteiba repeats ultimatum

Dr. Mana Said Al Oteiba, United Arab Emirates oil minister, repeated his ultimatum to OPEC Sunday in a television interview broadcast by satellite from Abu Dhabi.

"The possibility of a price war is there if the producers fail to reach proper arrangements on production levels and price... within a week or so, if nothing has been decided, we are going to choose our own way," he said on ABC television.

"We will decide our own prices and set our own levels of production," he said.

Dr. Oteiba said OPEC's \$34 a barrel reference level no longer existed and was "a part of history."

"Now we have to look at a new level for market crude which is lower than that... it should be somewhere between \$30 and

\$29," he said.

Mr. Oteiba said OPEC was continuing diplomatic contacts within and outside the exporter group aimed at making a small cut in the \$34 a barrel reference price to stimulate demand and head off a price collapse.

He said there had been some encouraging signs, but added: "We cannot wait forever. The Gulf has been carrying all the weight of the market, all of the pressures, while others have been enjoying it."

Mr. Regan said on the same television programme that the American economy would benefit from lower worldwide oil prices, saving \$10 billion for every 10 per cent cut in its cost per barrel.

Asked to predict the price of a barrel of oil in the next 30 days, Mr. Regan replied: "I would say somewhere south of \$30... between \$25 and \$30."

Great help to Reagan

Mr. Regan said the price drop was a great help to President Reagan in his efforts to guide the U.S. economy out of recession.

He said that for each 10 per cent fall in the price of oil, the country's gross national product would rise by between one quarter and one-half of a per cent.

He conceded, however, that some American banks, which had made extensive loans to oil producing countries such as Mexico as well as to the domestic oil industry, would have some difficulties in seeking repayments.

Gold price tumbles

LONDON (R) — Hopes of economic recovery and falling inflation sent gold prices tumbling below \$400 an ounce in the Far East Monday before recovering to around \$420 in Europe.

The price was set at \$419.75 an ounce at the morning fix in London compared with Friday's close of \$463.75 in what one dealer said was "very, very nervous trading." It was selling at around \$420 in Zurich.

The dollar, which generally competes with gold for investor attention, opened higher in Europe Monday, reaching 2.4215

West German marks compared with 2.4122 marks at Friday's close.

Gold prices had fluctuated around \$500 an ounce for most of February, hitting a 22-month peak of \$511.50 on Feb. 15.

The price started to plummet last Tuesday as the Gulf states said they were considering oil price cuts.

But gold was still well above its 1982 low of \$296.75 last June. It fell to around \$397 an ounce in Hong Kong at one point Monday before moving back to \$415.50 at the close.

The price of gold shares in London and Johannesburg fell sharply in line with the drop in the price of bullion before making a partial recovery in later trading.

Gold is a traditional haven for investors and speculators in times of political and economic uncertainty, and market analysts said the expectation of oil price cuts fuelling economic recovery and lowering inflation was a key factor in its drop in price.

The analysts said this appeared to outweigh fears that a steep drop in oil prices would put pressure on heavily indebted oil producers like Mexico, Venezuela and Nigeria and threaten world financial stability.

Traders said speculators were also getting out of the market after they had bought gold last week in the belief that the price had stabilised.

One market analyst described the current situation as "a major turning point for the gold market." He expected gold prices to fluctuate before they steadied on a new level and the market recovered its poise.

Another commented: "really, I don't think anyone knows what to do at the moment. Everyone is very, very confused."

Key officials express unusual optimism for U.S. economy

WASHINGTON (R) — Three key U.S. policymakers expressed unusual optimism Sunday about the short-term direction of the American economy, interest rates and unemployment, but each warned that serious obstacles could threaten a sustained recovery.

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan predicted that U.S. interest rates could fall a couple of percentage points to nine per cent this year, spurring economic recovery and pushing the American jobless rate to below 10 per cent.

But Mr. Regan, President Reagan's chief economic spokesman, said the Federal Reserve Board had been pursuing a rather loose monetary policy and he urged the central bank to tighten it up.

"I think they've (central bank governors) been on the loose side. They've been very accommodative, very stimulative. Now they have to slow that down without killing it (the recovery) off," he told ABC television.

On the NBC network, Reserve Bank Chairman Paul Volcker said

he did not think that money supply growth was too expansive and he expected it to slow down in the months ahead.

He said he thought the U.S. began to recover from an 18-month recession in January and that prospects were good for further declines in U.S. interest rates.

"I think they will come down and continue to come down," Mr. Volcker said.

But the powerful central bank chairman warned Congress it must significantly reduce federal budget deficits if economic recovery was to be sustained.

He hinted that the U.S. dollar was currently overvalued and had been responsible for a sharp drop in American exports.

On the CBS television network, Mr. Martin Feldstein, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, told interviewers the recovery was shaping up more strongly than the administration anticipated a few months ago.

"If I were doing the forecast now, I would have a higher rate of

real growth and a little lower unemployment," Mr. Feldstein said.

He added that the obstacles to sustained recovery were interest rates and the size of the U.S. trade deficit, which he predicted would amount to \$75 billion this year, double last year's figure.

Meanwhile, Americans are gaining confidence in the country's

economy and more now feel they will be better off at the end of the year than felt that way a year ago, according to a public opinion poll released Sunday.

The poll, in the U.S. News and World Report magazine, found that 55.9 per cent of those asked expected their economic status to improve this year.

Venezuela devalues bolivar by 28.7%

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela Monday announced a partial devaluation of the bolivar by 28.7 per cent as part of a plan to counter capital flight and the effects of declining oil revenues.

The decision came after a week-long suspension of foreign currency sales, during which the government said it was reimposing exchange controls for the first time in 18 years.

Announcing the devaluation, Finance Minister Arturo Sosa said the bolivar would stay at its current rate of 4.3 to the dollar for priority transactions such as foreign debt repayment, essential imports and student expenses abroad.

But he said it would be set at a new rate of six to the dollar for lesser priorities and that a free market would be established for the general public in which the bolivar would be floated.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed quietly mixed with most interest centred on secondary issues following the temporary suspension of Polly Peck, but gold shares fell sharply in line with the bullion price, dealers said. The F.T. index at 1500 was down 1.7 at 637.5.

The bullion price was fixed Monday afternoon at \$408.50 after the fix on Friday afternoon of \$464.75. After a brief mid-morning rally, gold shares continued their downward trend with Randfont off \$16 at 122½. Financials followed the trend with Cons Gold down 30p at 474.

North American shares were mixed. Government bonds were around one point firmer in longer dated issues in moderate trading on optimism for U.S. interest rates and inflation, though profit-taking edged prices ½ point off the day's best levels, dealers said.

Polly Peck's quotation was temporarily suspended pending a further announcement at £17, compared with Friday's close of 23½, on concern over the company's tax position in Cyprus, dealers said. Mellins fell 50p at 170 and Arlen Electric shed 35p at 293 in sympathy.

Vickers was down 2p at 116 after 110 after reporting reduced annual profits while in dull oils, Ultramar fell 13p at 439.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday:

One sterling	1.5205/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2264/67	Canadian dollars
	2.4210/20	West German marks
	2.6750/60	Dutch guilders
	2.0440/60	Swiss francs
	47.62/67	Belgian francs
	6.8590/8640	French francs
	1397.75/1398.75	Italian lire
	235.85/236.00	Japanese yen
	7.4400/50	Swedish crowns
	7.1255/1305	Norwegian crowns
	8.6050/6150	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	421.00/424.00	U.S. dollars

Turkey cuts straits fees

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has slashed 80 per cent off controversial high transit fees for ships using the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, the chairman of the Turkish Maritime Federation said Monday.

The Turkish authorities increased the fees 10-fold without warning last November bringing strong protests from shipping companies and several signatories of the 1936 Montreux Convention which governs the narrow link between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

Soviet, Bulgarian and Romanian ships, which together make up the bulk of foreign traffic in the straits, stopped paying the fees in protest, shipping sources in Istanbul said.

Captain Metin Leblebicioglu, the chairman of the maritime federation, told Reuters by telephone from Istanbul that from Monday ships of 20,000 net registered tonnes not sailing to or from a Turkish port will pay about \$6,200 for a return trip through the straits, compared with about \$35,000 before.

Lighting and life-saving fees, levied by the state-owned Maritime Bank, account for about \$4,000 of the new rates which the bank announced Monday. Captain Leblebicioglu said.

New sanitary fees, levied by the Turkish health authorities, came into effect last Saturday, he said.

He added that ships calling at Turkish ports, which were not subject to the huge November increases, also had to pay the new rates with higher sanitary dues than transiting vessels.

Captain Leblebicioglu said that although the new rates were about double the pre-November rates, he expected them to be accepted by shipping companies, including the state-owned Soviet, Bulgarian and Romanian lines.

A spokesman for shipping agents in Istanbul acting for Soviet ships said no instructions had yet been received from Moscow about the new fees.

Captain Leblebicioglu said it was still not clear how the government had set the new rates. But he said it appeared it had set its own price for the gold franc.

The three service charges are tied to the price of the gold franc under the Montreux Convention.

The rates rocketed overnight in November when the government began fixing a daily gold price in line with international market rates, then about 10 times the old government price of \$42.22 per ounce.

At the same time, government officials said that in the absence of an internationally recognised gold franc price it was legitimate to calculate the service charges against the market rate of the amount of gold contained in the franc.

OPEC officials continue talks

PARIS (R) — OPEC's hopes of holding together and averting an oil price war depend on a peace package being discussed here Monday by three key ministers from the exporter group, diplomatic sources said.

They said that if efforts by the oil ministers of Venezuela, Algeria and Kuwait failed, it was unlikely OPEC would meet within a seven-day deadline set by the Gulf countries for the group to reach agreement on output and prices.

The sources, who declined to be identified, said the three ministers would try to put together a prices and production agreement involving OPEC and non-OPEC producers which might entice Nigeria back into the OPEC mainstream.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Humberto Calderon Berti has emerged as a central figure in the shuttle diplomacy mounted within OPEC to avert a price war. He met fellow ministers in Paris and the Gulf in the past week and has sought to bring non-OPEC producers, such as Mexico and Britain, into efforts to stabilise the international market.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

DRY CLEANING

"I hate it when Stanley does the cooking. Tonight we're having beer mousse."

Peanuts

I FEEL GRUMPY TODAY... I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ANYBODY OR SEE ANYBODY!

I'LL HOLD MY FIST OUT, LINUS, AND YOU WALK INTO IT...

GET OUT OF MY WAY!

BONK!

DID IT HURT? NO, BUT IT MIGHT LATER IF WE STICK AROUND

Mutt 'n' Jeff

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THAT POOR TV A KISS, AUGUSTUS?

REMEMBER WHAT THE TV REPAIRMAN SAID WHEN HE WAS HERE?

YOU'RE HEADING FOR ANOTHER ANTENNAE MELTDOWN!

HUT! HUT!

HUT! HUT!

Andy Capp

WHAT GETS INTO ME? HOW COULD I SINK SO LOW?

I'LL TELL YOU

DON'T START!!

ANOTHER ONE OF YS RULES. WHEN E CRITICISES 'MSELF, NO ONE ELSE AS THE RIGHT TO CRITICISE 'M'

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THISO

WEDIP

SHORKE

WUCREF

Now arrange the jumbled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: DRONE HAREM TANDEM BUNION

Answer: That guy on the football team got hurt when this occurred—THE TEAM WAS ON HIM

THE Daily Crossword by Barbara J. Weekley

ACROSS

1 Painting and sculpture

5 Braker

9 Collect

14 Vessel

15 Countenance

16 Showy plant

17 Indian city

18 Poma fruit

19 Restations

20 Rutabaga

22 Antidotes

24 Prosperous times

26 Ford

27 Brotherly love feast

29 Signify

33 Embark

36 Beest

37 Military address

38 Shield

40 Spanish title: abbr.

41 Government official

44 Arises

47 Cat or goat

48 More crude

49 Uncommon

51 Teachers

55 Drizzle

58 Rat

60 Raccoon's relative

61 Lots

63 Old Norse collection of poems

64 Item of property

65 Great Lake

66 Lark slowly

67 PoeWee or Della

68 Certain

69 Hit signs

DOWN

1 "If you go long enough without —"

2 Kneave

3 Sojourn

4 — attention (trait in a so-dirty way)

5 Elated

6 Presidential nickname

7 Close by

8 Scatter

9 Consents

10 Damsels

11 Opposed

12 Snick

and —

13 Back talk

21 Villain in "Othello"

23 trate

25 German admiral

28 Rarin' to go

30 Kiln

31 Roap

32 Guldonian notes

33 Spotted rodent

34 Atop

35 Chinese club

36 Muslim priest

42 Form of argument

43 Black mineral

45 State bird of Hawaii

46 Naive

50 Fudd or Garry

52 More ancient

53 Cowboy entertainment

54 Cookies

55 Clearly

56 Sit for a portrait

57 Scratch out

58 Continental prefix

62 Hush-hush group

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WORLD

China's aged de facto head of state expected to retire soon

PEKING (R) — A high-level meeting opened Monday at which China's de facto head of state, 85-year-old Marshal Ye Jianying, is expected to announce his forthcoming retirement because of old age and ill-health.

The standing committee of China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), began a full session Monday afternoon in the Great Hall of the People.

Marshal Ye's main deputy, former Peking Mayor Peng Zhen, chaired the meeting. The New China News Agency said.

Although the official agency made no reference to Marshal Ye, a government spokesman has said the veteran leader would propose to the meeting that he step down from the NPC chairmanship before a new parliament convenes in May or June.

The spokesman said last week that Vice-Chairman Peng, 80, was

already handling considerable work on Marshal Ye's behalf because of the latter's "advanced age and physical weakness."

Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang was quoted by a Japanese delegation as saying recently that Mr. Peng would formally take over as acting chairman at the standing committee meeting. There has been no confirmation of this.

Political analysts said it appeared likely that the standing committee would accept Marshal Ye's proposal to step down but that he might remain nominally in office until this parliament's term expired in a few months.

The government spokesman said Marshal Ye would not be a candidate for the next National People's Congress, the sixth to be elected in Communist-controlled polls since Mao Tse-tung led the party to victory over Chiang Kai-

Shek in 1949.

The session that opened Monday is the 26th meeting of the fifth NPC standing committee, which enacts most of China's laws and has most of the powers of the full congress.

Under a new constitution passed late last year, China will have a proper head of state again when the presidency is restored by the new parliament and the post of NPC chairman is downgraded to deal solely with congressional affairs.

China has been without a president for the past 15 years. Mao purged the last one, Liu Shaoqi, in his Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s, and he later died in jail.

Marshal Ye, formerly Mao's defence minister, has been de facto head of state since 1978. During his rare public appearance recently, he has been attended constantly by nurses and unable to

read his own speeches.

Politically to the left of China's top leader, Deng Xiaoping, the marshal appears to have been unwilling to step down despite a vigorous campaign by Mr. Deng to rejuvenate the leadership, analysts say.

When Mr. Deng created the party's central council of elders last September as a face-saving means of persuading aging leaders to hand over to younger men, Marshal Ye and two other old marshals remained on the politburo instead.

There has been no indication that Marshal Ye contemplates stepping down from the politburo where he is nominally number two in the hierarchy.

He is believed to enjoy considerable loyalty among Maoist elements in the four-million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Socialists lead polls in Senegal

DAKAR (R) — President Abdou Diouf and his ruling Socialist Party were strongly ahead in unofficial early returns Monday after Senegal's elections Sunday for a new parliament and president.

Initial results, read out live on state television and radio, indicated that the Socialists were polling 80 to 85 per cent of the vote.

The nearest competition came from the liberal Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) which seemed to have around 12 per cent.

Full results are expected to be known later.

Eight parties — an unusually high number for black Africa — produced 1,300 candidates to fight for 120 parliamentary seats. Mr. Diouf was challenged for the presidency by four other candidates.

Mr. Diouf, 48, became president in 1981, when Leopold Sedar Senghor retired after 10 years in office, and is widely expected to have a comfortable majority for a five-year term.

His main challenger, Abdoulaye Wade, head of the PDS, joined other opposition leaders in alleging that some voting cards had been fraudulently distributed to the wrong people.

Mr. Diouf told journalists that any irregularities would be punished and said: "I think it is dangerous to invent disputes which do not exist."

The opposition parties also criticised Senegal's complex electoral system, which mixes proportional representation with "first past the post" voting.

Since the last election in 1978, the number of seats in Parliament has been increased from 100 to 120.

The Socialists won 82 seats in 1978 and the PDS 18.

Marcos vows to crush communists

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said Monday he would use the full might of the armed forces to stop what he called a Communist reign of terror in the countryside.

Mr. Marcos told a meeting of military academy graduates the Communists had abandoned peaceful propaganda to win mass support and turned to intimidation, extortion and killings.

"There is an escalation in the incidence of ambushes on our loyal troops as well as acts of terrorism on defenceless civilians by bands, who call themselves the New People's Army."

He said rebellion and terrorism in some parts of the country were encouraged by government critics, who made irresponsible statements about government policy.

"A few weeks back, I ordered the fielding of additional battalions to the troubled areas in the southern Mindanao island and unless the killings abate we will send more troops to these areas," he said.

But he said he would continue to "open the door of dialogue to those who may differ with us, even those who may have taken a futile choice of violent conflict with the government."

Strike cripples Assam

GAUHATI (R) — Workers and students demanding the eviction of illegal immigrants from Assam Monday shut power station, oil refineries, shops and businesses in a 24-hour protest strike against the new state government.

The whole of the northeast Indian state was without electricity and few government employees turned up for work.

The strike was called by hard-line Assamese political and student groups in protest at the new state government formed Sunday by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

Congress won a two-thirds majority in Assam's state assembly in this month's elections, which started the worst post-independence violence in India's history.

Indian intelligence sources Monday supported unofficial estimates that at least 2,500 people died in unrest in the Brahmaputra Valley state in the past month.

The violence was triggered by an anti-immigrant campaign by militant ethnic Assamese who urged a boycott of the elections because illegal immigrants were included on electoral rolls.

The militants want up to 3.5 million immigrants, mostly Bengali-

speaking Muslims from neighbouring Bangladesh, evicted.

The electricity cut started Sunday shortly after the new administration was sworn in, blacking out almost all of the oil-producing state, and two of Assam's three oil refineries were closed for the day.

In the state capital, Gauhati, shops were shut and the city's usually bustling central bazaar was deserted. Only police trucks were on the streets.

The Times of India said Monday the massacre was carefully planned and up to 10,000 ethnic Assamese and tribesmen armed with old guns, hatchets and spears had taken part.

Said two police reports were sent to Delhi warning of a possible attack but they were ignored.

Sixty per cent of those who died were women and about 15 per cent were children, the Times added. Most of the men fled from the villages which were attacked.

In the Delhi parliament Monday Home Minister P.C. Sethi appealed to all parties to help the new state government restore peace. But opposition leaders said the administration was unrepresentative because polling had been so low in many constituencies.

Pope on C. American tour

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul II will underline his policy of preaching peace in the world's trouble spots when he tours Central America and the Caribbean starting next Wednesday.

In a message to Roman Catholics in the eight countries he will visit, the Pope said Monday he was aware of their intense suffering "under the scourge of war, hatred and centuries of injustice."

The Pope starts his nine-day tour in Costa Rica and will proceed to Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize before making a final stop at Haiti in the Caribbean.

He stressed in Monday's message the tour would be essentially religious in character, but left no doubt of his hope it would lead to an improvement in social justice for the predominantly Catholic populations.

Dacca reopens schools, keeps universities closed

DACCA (R) — Schools and colleges in Bangladesh reopened Monday after being closed by the military government following violence earlier this month in which five students were killed in police firing.

But an official announcement said the country's six universities would stay shut indefinitely and all examinations there had been postponed until further notice.

Attendance Monday at schools and colleges in the capital Dacca was thin but police kept watch nearby in case of fresh violence. However, there were no reports of incidents.

Five students were killed and more than 100 people injured on Feb. 14 and 15 in clashes between police and students protesting against martial law and demanding

the scrapping of a controversial Islamic education policy.

The military authorities said Sunday night they had freed 31 of 53 students arrested as a result of the violence.

Official sources earlier said more than 300 people including 55 politicians were in jail for their involvement in the clashes.

The detained politicians belong to an alliance of 18 leftist and centrist parties.

Political sources in Dacca believe the politicians will be freed by the middle of March to create conditions for a national dialogue between political parties and the armed forces.

Military ruler Lt-Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad proposed the dialogue recently to look at Bangladesh's political future.

Superpowers more than curious about result of Bonn elections

BONN (T) — The West German election campaign, accompanied by an unprecedented volume of comment and opinion from the two superpowers, moved into its final week Sunday with the outcome still uncertain.

Opinion polls suggest that when more than 40 million voters go to the polls next Sunday to elect a new Bundestag (lower house) they will confirm conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl in office.

But it is less clear whether the centrist Free Democratic (FDP) coalition partners will be there to balance the right-wing influence of Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian wing of his Christian Democrats (CDU).

There is also an outside possibility that the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) could return to power with the support of the radical anti-nuclear Greens Party, an outcome which would set alarm bells ringing throughout the Western alliance.

The almost obsessive attention of the superpowers has been focused on West Germany ever since the SPD's candidate for chancellor, Hans-Jochen Vogel, turned the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles into the dominant issue of the campaign.

Mr. Kohl had hoped to maintain the political consensus that Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles would have to be deployed from December this year unless the Soviet Union scrapped its medium-range missiles targeted on Western Europe.

But Mr. Vogel, shifting position in an effort to woo Greens' supporters and young voters passionately opposed to the missiles, said he would do everything possible to avoid the deployment of more missiles on West German soil.

Given West Germany's strategic importance in the front-line between East and West, the out-

come of the election has become a crucial matter for the superpowers, effectively stalling their Geneva talks on reducing medium-range missiles.

Superpower interest

While both continually insist that they are not interfering in German internal politics, the Soviet Union has made it clear that it would like Mr. Vogel to win the election while the United States has made little secret of its preference for Mr. Kohl.

Both sent leading emissaries to Bonn during the campaign. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko had barely left the federal capital before U.S. Vice-President George Bush arrived.

On Friday the government accused the Soviet Union of interference after Mr. Gromyko, in a Pravda article, called for West Europeans to distance themselves from the United States on nuclear disarmament.

The missile issue has been discussed so frequently in the election campaign that it had seemed to be played out. But the Gromyko article revived it.

Mr. Kohl responded by saying Moscow had no chance of driving a wedge between West Germany and the United States, while his Christian Democratic Party (CDU) returned to its theme that SPD policies would lead to neutralism and the break-up of NATO.

However, with opinion polls now consistently predicting a conservative vote of around 46 to 47 per cent and about 41 to 42 per cent for SPD, the missile debate no longer seems to be swaying an electorate more concerned about fast-rising unemployment.

February figures show this week are expected to show the number out of work has risen above 2.5 million, more than 10 per cent of the workforce.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Female hairdressers restricted in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (R) — Women have been banned from cutting men's hair in the sultanate of Brunei, officials said. They said more than 100 women, mainly Chinese from Singapore and Malaysia, who worked in hairdressing salons also offering massage and escort services, had been ordered to leave the country.

The managers of about a dozen Chinese-run hair salons employing all-female staff had been told to sack them and surrender their passports so that their work permits could be cancelled.

U.S. litigation overwhelms courts

WASHINGTON (R) — Litigation in the U.S. is booming with a growth rate so high it threatens to overwhelm the already strained courts, according to a new report. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) survey said that in the financial year ending 1982 new court cases in the U.S. had risen by more than 82 million over a four year period. The biggest rise was in Massachusetts with a 132 per cent increase in criminal and civil cases. "I have been surprised that we haven't had a breakdown of the system, to say nothing of a physical breakdown of some of the justices," U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger said recently.

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Fraser serious about polls

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, lagging behind in opinion polls, Monday launched a half million dollar propaganda drive to win re-election in next Saturday's general election.

Opinion polls put the Labour opposition under its new leader, Bob Hawke, ahead by as much as 13 per cent in the run-up to the election.

The Liberals' campaign director, Tony Eggleton, said the

party will use two-minute television commercials, radio spots and newspaper advertisements "to get beneath the personality politics."

Mr. Fraser will be seen sitting on the edge of an office desk talking about his government's achievements, outlining plans for combating unemployment and attacking Labour's proposals for a prices and incomes deal with trade unions, said Mr. Eggleton.

Indian politician pulls revolver in parliament

NEW DELHI (R) — A member of the Indian Parliament caused an uproar by pulling out a revolver in the House Monday.

Opposition Janata Party leader Madhu Dandavate drew the gun, which he said later was not loaded, while debating a motion with the speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House), Balram Jakhar.

Mr. Dandavate, a former rail-

way minister in the Janata government, apologised later for his action which led to noisy scenes in the house, meeting for its budget session.

Mr. Dandavate and the speaker were discussing an alleged attempt to murder a Janata Party candidate in recent Delhi local election.

Mrs. Gandhi grants religious concessions to Sikhs

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Sunday announced religious concessions for India's Sikh community, including permission to carry daggers, which are symbolic of the religion, on internal flights.

Militant Sikhs have been campaigning for religious and political concessions from the government, including greater autonomy for the prosperous northern farming state of Punjab where most of the country's 12 million Sikhs live.

Addressing a large congregation of Sikhs at Delhi's golden-domed Bangla Sahib

Temple, Mrs. Gandhi said the government was allowing Sikhs to carry a nine-inch (23 centimetres) dagger known as a kirpan with a six-inch (15 centimetres) blade.

The kirpan is one of the five symbols of the Sikh faith. Because of anti-hijack regulations Sikhs had been barred from carrying them on aircraft. Sikhs have been associated with several hijacks over the past two years.

Other concessions included a ban on the sale of tobacco and alcohol around the Golden Temple in the Punjab city of Amritsar, the

Sikh's holiest shrine, and the broadcast of Sikh religious hymns on the local station of the state-owned All-India Radio.

But the prime minister made no reference to the Sikh demand that Amritsar should be formally declared a holy city, nor to the political demands of the militants.

The Sikh Akali Dal Party, headed by Harchand Singh Longowal, wants concessions on water rights, a better financial deal for the Punjab and incorporation of neighbouring Punjabi-speaking areas into the state.

Talks with the government on

these demands broke down earlier this month and extra para-military forces were deployed in the Punjab to prevent trouble.

Mrs. Gandhi has said Sikh religious demands could be met without much difficulty but that political ones involved other states whose interests had to be considered.

Mr. Longowal said last Tuesday that his party would press for the resignation of India's Sikh president, Zail Singh, because he was unable to protect the constitutional rights of the Punjab.

Turkish academics allege government-inspired purge

ANKARA (R) — Four Turkish academics say they have been dismissed in the latest round of a gradual purge that has seen more than 220 sackings under military rule.

The four, senior members of the Ankara University faculty of political sciences, received written notification of their dismissals on Friday evening.

Like others fired before them, they were given no reason for being sacked by martial law authorities.

Three weeks ago, 11 lecturers in Ankara and Istanbul lost their jobs and academics say at least another 500 university teachers have resigned since the 1981 military coup.

The shakeup is widely seen as a politically-inspired purge of the country's 28 universities.

Those sacked were told only that they were dismissed under a martial law statute empowering the military to dismiss any civil servant deemed to be acting in a "harmful" way. People dismissed

are permanently barred from holding a public service job.

Many of those dismissed had reputations for being Socialists or Socialist sympathisers.

The higher education council, appointed by the military 18 months ago to administer universities, said the sackings were not politically inspired but due to overmanaging or incompetence.

However, university sources said the ruling generals were trying to prevent a return to pre-coup days when university campuses were a focus for much of the political violence that claimed about 5,000 lives and prompted the military takeover.

Academics opposed to the dismissals say the violence sprang from students already politically committed when they arrived at college.

The purge, which has included former deans and senior professors, is having a crippling effect on Turkey's higher education, they say.

Academie Francaise turns down singer's application

PARIS (R) — The Academie Francaise, regarded by some French intellectuals as an ossified remnant from prehistory, has failed to choose a new member as the body balked at electing singer and songwriter Charles Trenet.

The election stirred new passions in France about the academy, one of the country's oldest institutions. Trenet, a candidate for one of the academy's 40 seats, would have been the first popular singer elected to the body founded 350 years ago.

Before the election, 20 French authors and artists predicted Trenet's defeat. In a two-page attack on the academy in the newspaper Le Matin last week, they blasted it as a comatose body, a historic monument, a ridiculous hiccup and a paleontological survivor.

Le Matin predicted that Trenet would not be elected due to the "terribly cramped, arthritic, ossified rules which make the academy a place of repression of the true, living values of our language when it should be their springboard, their strength."

Most of the academy's members, elected for life, are elderly and few are well-known outside France. The first woman was admitted in 1980 with the election of novelist Marguerite Yourcenar.

The ballot was the third attempt to elect a successor to the duke of Levis-Mirepoix, a historian who died two years ago.